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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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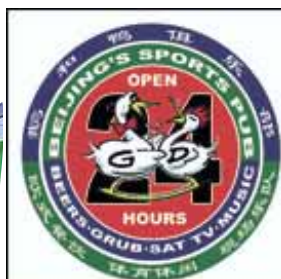
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This is China's last week on the stage of Europolia, and it is not about to go quietly. Beijing has a staggering number of cultural exhibits ready.

The festival, which gives one country each year a chance to show the world its best face, has been held every two years since 1969.

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# Gov begins to integrate 100 mln migrants

By Chu Meng

The central government is rolling out new plans to support next-gen migrant workers according to its "No. 1 Central Document" last Sunday.

The next-gen workers, whose population now numbers 100 million, migrate to urban areas to escape the income gap that separates villages from cities.

The rights and concerns of laborers have been a central government discussion point for the last seven years, but this year marks the first time their children were addressed directly in the first yearly document.

"This group refers to those born in the 1980s and 1990s to parents who abandoned their farmlands for work in the city," Tang Renjian, deputy director of the Central Rural Work Leading Group, said at a press conference Monday.

The central government has made it a top priority to help these men and women become urban residents, according to the document. The government plans to move more farmers to the cities to receive housing, insurance, social security, education and other benefits that urban residents enjoy.

"They are better educated than their parents but have limited knowledge of farming and little interest in it. They want to become part of the city and embrace that life, but at the

same time the cities don't want to accept them," Tang said.

"This is an important issue concerning the social structure in China's rural areas and, indeed, in the entire country," Huang Xu, director of the Urban Studies Office at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, said Wednesday.

The new generation migrants differ from their parents in that these men and women are not willing to be the passive victims of discrimination, Huang said.

The problem is that modern society has given them simple but blind ideas about equality and democracy, he said. They lack the comprehensive education of city residents while clinging to the perspectives of their rural parents.

The new group most wants to be treated the same as urban residents in employment and public services, he said.

Huang said small- and mid-sized cities are the ideal locations for this generation to make the transition. "Life in the smaller cities will make their dreams more achievable at their income levels," he said.

He also suggested that *hukou*, or household registration system, in small- and mid-sized cities should open, and more effort is needed to accelerate the economic development of townships.



The government wants to settle next-gen migrants in second-tier cities. CFP Photo

## Youth League appeals for return to old traditions on Spring Festival

By Zhao Hongyi

The Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Youth League is calling on young students to spend this Spring Festival in a traditional way and to restrain their behavior in public.

The committee, together with the Beijing Youth School of Traditional Chinese Culture, calls on young people to observe traditional etiquette, filial piety, chastity and temperance.

This February 14 marks the start of a new lunar year. Spring Festival usually comes in January or February each year during the winter holiday.

"Let's remember traditional etiquette, show our respect to others and enrich ourselves and our knowledge of Beijing," the proposal said.

Traditional Chinese culture is a catch-all term for subjects as diverse as philosophy, military, literature and Confucian texts dealing with social order, personal behavior and outlook.

In the early 1900s, traditional



The Communist Youth League hopes traditional values can find a place in modern society. In Jiangxi Province, students in traditional costume recite classical lessons. CFP Photo

culture experienced a revival in response to the weak Qing government, which allowed China to be divided up by foreign powers and the people to be oppressed.

In the 1990s, it came back again: this time against a backdrop of economic reform, a widening gap between the rich and poor, injustice, and poorly

planned social welfare.

As the country enters a new decade, traditional culture is once again getting attention. Many universities are teaching it, kindergartens are offering early education classes in it and televised lectures are giving professors the chance to put forward new interpretations.

"There is no excuse for us to abandon the principles and guidance passed down by our ancestors for thousands of years," Qiao Xiaopeng, from the committee, said.

The committee is planning a lecture on traditional culture at 10 am February 7 on the second floor of the Xidan Book Store. They keynote speech will be delivered by a yet unnamed celebrity speaker.

The Communist Youth League has been called the incubation tube of China's leaders. Many leaders, including former party secretary general Hu Yaobang, President Hu Jintao and the expected future premier Li Keqiang, are former members.

## Survey says poor areas breed web addicts

By Han Manman

Young people living in smaller cities are more likely to be addicted to the Web than their peers in developed areas, a survey released Tuesday said.

The survey, conducted by the China Youth Association for Network Development and Communication University of China, found 8 to 9 percent of young Internet users in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou were "addicted."

But the numbers were worse in western cities such as Guiyang and Yinchuan, where 32 and 21 percent of young Internet surfers were declared addicts.

One of the main reasons for the higher proportion of Web-addicted youth in less developed cities is the lack of choices to spend leisure time. Youths in developed cities have a wider and earlier exposure to the Internet and more choices in how to spend leisure time, the survey said.

The number of 'net addicts' leaped to 24 million last year, double the figure from 2005, and included one in seven young Internet users. Nearly half of the young people surveyed used the Web to play games, according to Hao Xianghong, secretary-general of the China Youth Association for Network Development (CYAND).

"The results highlight a worrying trend of growing Internet addiction among youth," Hao said.

He said the survey polled 7,000 people between the ages of 6 and 29 in 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions from last September to January. It has been conducted every two years since 2005 by CYAND.

As many as 15.6 percent of the netizens in the 18-to-23 age range were Internet addicts – the largest percentage among age groups surveyed. The lowest percentage of addicts, 8.8 percent, was found among 6- to 12-year-old Internet users, according to the survey.

The survey classified Internet addicts as users with at least one of the three symptoms: a continuous desire to use the Internet; anxiety or anger when cut off from the Internet; or experiencing greater happiness online than in real life, Hao said.

At least 384 million people are online in the country. Internet addiction is an increasing concern for parents, some of whom resort to extreme methods to curb their child's habits.

In August, a 15-year-old died at an Internet rehabilitation camp in Guangxi. The camp was met with outrage when the autopsy report concluded the death was due to extreme physical abuse.

Another teenager was seriously beaten that month at a similar camp in Sichuan Province.

There are 400 private Internet rehabilitation clinics nationwide.



# Coca-Cola investigated in boy's mercury poisoning

By Chu Meng

Wang Yong (pseudonym), a 13-year-old high school student, was diagnosed with mercury poisoning two hours after drinking a can of Sprite on January 17 in Tongzhou, Beijing.

The boy remains in No. 307 Hospital's emergency unit and is still undergoing detox. He is the second person in three months to be poisoned shortly after drinking Sprite bottled by the Beijing Coca-Cola Company.

Beijing Coca-Cola Company gave 20,000 yuan for the boy's treatment calling it "humanitarian assistance."

"The company is considering Wang's medical expenses a humanitarian donation. It should not be taken as recognition of fault. We are waiting for the police to finish their investigation," Chen Yi, the public affairs director of Beijing Coca-Cola Company, said Wednesday.

The day after the incident, Coca-Cola issued a statement that mercury is not used at any stage of the beverage's production, and the current production process adheres to national standards.



Coca-Cola is waiting for the police to release their findings. It said its products are mercury-free. CFP Photo

Wang bought the can of sprite on January 17 at a supermarket beside his school after lunch. It was part of a batch produced in August 2009.

"When we got home, he took two big sips from the can and told me he felt like he was eating jelly. I poured the last third of the can into a glass and found it contains a soy-bean-size silver ball," Wang's father said.

He took his son to No. 307

Hospital and called the police.

The latest blood test found Wang's blood to contain 3.6 percent nanograms per milliliter, still above the average 2.5 percent. He often has bouts of dizziness, and doctors say he may require another three months of hospitalization.

Tongzhou police sent samples of Sprite from the same batch to the Chaoyang District Products Quality Control Center on Tuesday: no mercury was found.

"The results found the Sprites mercury levels to be well within the limits of the national food and beverage standard," Han Chunju, a lab technician at the center, said.

The Police sent the can to China Packaging Research and Development Test Center, located in Tianjin Tuesday, to test whether it was sealed properly. Results of its tests are pending.

Police found a broken thermometer at Wang's home on the same table where he drank the Sprite. He told police he broke a thermometer and swept away the glass fragments and mercury balls with his hands without telling his parents.

"But I washed my hands carefully immediately," Wang said. Police kept the thermometer as evidence, but have not announced a cause of poisoning.

Whether Coca-Cola will be required to pay compensation depends on their findings.

"The truth is a hundred times more important than the compensation. We want to know what poisoned my son so this does not happen again," Wang's father wrote on his blog, Tuesday.

## 'Foreigner only' community new colonial segregation in Chengdu

By Han Manman

A Chengdu property developer revived 19th century colonial racism when it, with the district government's approval, opened its new properties exclusively to "Western-looking" tenants.

This first "foreigner community" in western China, the Tianfu International, is being built in the municipality's technology park and will be completed in October.

When finished, the community will have churches, bilingual kindergartens and Western hospitals along with housing for 5,000.

Ethnic Chinese – even those who hold foreign passports – have been informed they are not welcome by the management, the *Global Times* reported.

"With more and more foreign companies investing in this city, it is important to think about how to provide them with a comfortable place to live nearby," Zheng Xiaoming, the head of the Planning and Construction Bureau of Gaoxin District, said.

At the end of last year, Chengdu had 20,000 foreign residents from 130 countries and regions including people from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, Zheng said.

"The community will be a modern international district because all the planning and construction was based on foreigners' input," Zheng said.

The foreigners-only rule was

to ensure the community was "truly international," Zheng said. "No residence will be available to the locals. Instead, they will be rented out exclusively to people from overseas."

Chinese people in Chengdu who heard the news called it a shameful act of discrimination, and many foreigners said they would not want to live in such a place.

"It's a ridiculous decision. It's like the Chinese are practicing segregation by keeping out the Chinese," Huang Jian, a Chengdu resident, said.

The decision revived memories of the concessions in several Chinese cities following the Opium Wars of the mid-1800s. These enclaves, governed and occupied by foreign powers, were regarded as the most powerful symbol of colonialism.

"I think their focus is not on giving expats convenience, but on getting expats' money," Huang said.

"Living in such a place may be convenient for us in some aspects, but I would not consider moving there," said Jessica Claire, who has lived in Chengdu for two years.

"I guess everything would be so expensive in that community," Claire said. She said she preferred having Chinese neighbors, and such an exclusive area would sever her contact with Chinese society.



Ethnic Chinese – even those who hold foreign passports – are not welcome in the community. IC Photo

## Egyptian officer tracks down swindler

By Zhao Hongyi

One week after being cheated, an Egyptian military officer training in a military school in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, tracked down the man who sold him a fake mobile phone.

Ali Muhammad (pseudonym), the officer, has lived in Nanjing for six months while training at Nanjing Army Command College. He often walked the perimeter of the city's Xuanwu Lake as part of his weekend exercises.

On January 26, during an evening walk around the lake, he met a local who tried to sell him several new Nokia mobile phones.

Impressed by the new styles and functions, Muhammad bought a Nokia N86 and bargained the price down to 400 yuan from 1,200 yuan. Though Muhammad spoke little Chinese and only poor English, he got the phone.

After Muhammad paid 400 yuan, the seller swapped the real phone for a display model and ran.

During the next week, Muhammad walked the lake every day hoping to run into the phone seller. On the seventh day he went to the Nanjing Railway Police Station nearby to ask for help.

"It's just a shame for someone in the military to be scammed this way," he said. Muhammad told the police and asked them to help him catch the peddler. "I don't mind the loss – I just want to see him get punished."

That evening, he and the police found the man still pretending to sell Nokia N86 phones to pedestrians. When the police approached him he was found to have two display models in his pocket.

"Individuals should contact the police whenever they are the victim of a bait and switch," a police officer surnamed Wu said. He praised Muhammad for his persistence.

"Most people tend to let these things go, especially foreign residents and visiting expats," he said.

"Unless people report these scams, it is tough to crack down on the people who profit at others' expense," he said.

The phone seller is awaiting sentencing. Police said they expect the man to be jailed.



# Trash into fuel?

## Solving the capital's landfill woes

By Annie Wei

The capital is on track to produce 30,000 tons of garbage every day by 2015, up from 18,400 tons in 2008.

Data from the Beijing Municipal and Administration Committee shows that the the garbage output of the capital's 16 million residents is growing at 8 percent every year, and is already at such a high rate that new landfills last no more than four years.

Deciding what to do with that urban waste remains a problem for the Beijing's Congress Meeting and the National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Chen Ling, vice director of the committee, said the capital's 23 garbage factories can only process 10,400 tons per day. The dumpsters are already past capacity. Over 90 percent of the city's garbage goes to landfills, 2 percent gets recycled and the other 8 percent is incinerated.

Beijing is not alone.

Trash is a dirty problem for more and more cities. The Ministry of Environmental Protection predicts China will produce 210 million tons of urban garbage by 2015, a 40 percent increase over trash output in 2008.

### Garbage burning power

Lack of funds and technology is why most garbage is piled up and buried, according to the Ministry of Construction.

Of 600 cities surveyed, one-third are boxed in by trash. Urban dumps account for 500 square meters of real estate nationwide, and that number is expanding.

Recently, the National Development and Reform Commission released a document about 30 provinces' energy projects for 2010. According to it, the country is planning to build 41 incinerators by the end of the year: to put things in perspective, there were 56 incinerators total at the end of 2008.

Many provinces have announced plans to burn waste for fuel. Unlike traditional landfills, garbage-burning stations take less space, which make them particularly attractive in urban environments.

Another method being pursued is composting. But composting often yields unsatisfactory results and is hard to run as a business.

Big cities seem destined to build incinerators. The central govern-

ment is already offering preferential policies to help them build new garbage-burning stations.

According to the enterprise taxation law, the central government will subsidize 0.25 yuan per kilowatt hour of electricity generated by burning waste. Incinerators will be free of added-value taxes, will operate tax free for their first three years and at half tax for the next three.

Local governments will provide other subsidies for garbage disposal.

Wang Shenquan, general manager of a garbage power station from Zibo, Shandong Province, told the *21st Century Economic Herald* that garbage stations don't lose money, but they don't make much either.

Still, the promise of stable income has lured foreign investors. Waste Management, a garbage disposal company from the US, showed interest in China, saying it hoped to build two to three incinerators on the mainland each year.



The garbage incinerator in Haining, Zhejiang Province, processes 600 tons of trash per day.

### Concerns

Industry reports show that incinerator construction is not expensive: most can be built with only a few million yuan of capital. But environmental researchers have serious concerns.

Zhao Zhangyuan, from the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, said supervision issues remain unsolved. He said small incinerators profit off government subsidies while burning very little garbage, and some knowingly expel poisonous gas to slash operating costs.

Edward Chen from GreenPeace Hong Kong said his organization preferred government control of waste management. He said Beijing was only investing 20 million yuan in garbage sorting three years ago, but one incinerator costs at least 700 to 800 million yuan.

In the 1990s, Japan had a public health crisis when its incinerators were found to be spewing out dioxin gas.

But Wang from Zibo Garbage Power Station said China's waste levels are so epidemic and its land so scarce that incinerator is the only sustainable option.

"It's just understood. Everyone knows it important to have public toilets... the problem is no one wants one near his house," Wang said.

Zhao said that no matter how well-controlled the garbage power station, dioxin is guaranteed to collect in the air eventually.

However, Xu Haiyun, chief engineer of China Urban Construction Design and Research Institute, said that landfills also generate dioxin – the public just chooses to ignore that amount.

### Recycling the best prevention

Japan incinerates 70 percent of its garbage due to a lack of land, Wang said. The US government too is rebalancing its garbage management policy to incinerate 30 percent, including refuse from uncapped and sorted landfills.

In China, each region seems to have its own approach. In the well-off east coast, where land is scarce, incinerators

are subsidized by the local government. In the interior, the central government pays for it. In the far west, where land is plentiful and people are few, landfills are still the disposal method of choice.

But Wang said it is still best to sort waste before burning: it reduces the generation of ash and promotes the recycling industry.



Used paper is being recycled.

The landfills have also been a problem for nearby homeowners. Many nearby residents complain of foul odors in the wind.

These odors may not be a failure of the landfill but a failure of procedure, Wang Weiping, an expert in garbage recycling and management, said.

The Gao'antun landfill, for example, was designed to receive 1,500 tons of garbage per day: in reality, it receives 3,000 to 4,000 tons, generating bad smells that affect the neighboring community.

In Beijing, recycling is done by migrant workers. The former state-owned recycling companies failed to get the job done, Wang said. Most of the city's recyclable materials go to Hebei Province.

"The recycling industry here is still getting started. It will take time," Wang said.



The city's landfills are staffed almost entirely by rural migrants.

CFP Photos

# Will Marbury make it in Shanxi?

## NBA players find basketball culture clash in China

Stephon Marbury, a former National Basketball Association (NBA) two-time all-star, has come to Shanxi Province to play basketball. His US fans were excited by the move, as they really don't want to watch him mope on the bench back in New York.

But Marbury's China adventure also spawns many questions: can he make his mark in Shanxi? How well does he think he can work with his new coach and teammates?

### Marbury's China trip

Stephon Marbury, whose NBA career was distinguished as much by off-court distractions and feuds with coaches as by his playmaking ability, has taken his game far afield: he has joined the Shanxi Zhongyu Brave Dragons of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA).

Marbury arrived in Shanxi last week, the club announced on its website. "The aim of signing Marbury is to pay back our fans and try to win more games for the rest of the season," the team's owner, Wang Xingjiang, said.

Wang said the value of Marbury's contract was not large but that the athlete would have the opportunity to extend his shoe brand, Starbury, in China.

Marbury, 32, averaged 19.3 points and 7.6 assists a game during his 13 years in the NBA – statistics that would make him the most high-profile player to grace the Chinese professional league since Houston Rocket star Yao Ming left in 2003.

Marbury made his debut Monday and scored 15 points and had eight assists as his new team lost 102-101 to the Dongguan Marco Polo. He had four steals and four rebounds, but shot 0 for 6 from the 3-point range, *China Daily* reported.

"The time difference is a big problem," Marbury said. "I wake up early, in the middle of the night, and stay up most of the day. It stinks."

### Netizens' reactions

So what are Chinese netizens saying about Marbury? It seems most people can't imagine Marbury living in Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi. Apparently, before he decided to come, Marbury interrogated a reporter for the CBA with hard-hitting questions like, "Where's McDonald's?"

Others think Marbury came here because his career in the US is pretty much over. But many hope his tenure in the CBA won't be as short-lived as Bonzi Wells': Yao Ming's old teammate got the boot last year from the Brave Dragons after failing to return on time from partying in the US.

"We're excited to see how high a former NBA all-star can rise in the CBA, but mostly just curious to see how many pairs of Starburys he can sell," a netizen said.

(Agencies)



Marbury is the most high-profile player to grace the Chinese professional basketball league. Xinhua Photo

## Analysis

### Can Marbury make it in Shanxi?

Former NBA players are turning to China's professional league for jobs, and their aggressive domination of the court has drawn criticism from a sports system dedicated to rearing local players.

China's teams stepped up recruitment abroad last year after new rules allowed them to field two foreign players, a move CBA hoped would attract interest in the league and expose players to tougher competition.

Before Marbury, there were other high-profile imports such as former NBA players Bonzi Wells and Donnell Harvey. But their arrival refocused virtually every CBA team's strategy around their scoring power, reducing stats and game time for local players.

"In the past it's been guys who were good but more team oriented," said Jason Dixon,

a US import who has played for the Guangdong Tigers for 10 years. "But now you're finding a lot of high-caliber NBA players."

"Even in college (Americans) are told, 'If you want to play in the NBA, you have to score, you have to have a sense of selfishness,' and I think the Chinese don't understand that."

CBA office director Zhang Xiong agreed that the domination of the imports has been "detrimental to the growth of Chinese players," who now play less.

However, increasing playtime for imports has also helped to make the CBA more physical and created competition that would force Chinese players to improve, Zhang said.

The CBA is ultimately a training ground for players in a state-run sports system focused on increasing China's success in international competition.

## Sidelight

### Marbury hopes to peddle basketball shoes

Stephon Marbury has said he hopes to use his on-court skills to market his brand of low-cost basketball shoes.

"I want to bring love to Chinese fans and I want to feel the love of the Chinese fans, so I'm going to play hard and work to help Shanxi win more games," Marbury told the *Titan Sports Weekly*, a Chinese sports paper.

"I've already decided: every game I'm going to give away shoes to the fans. This

is my own brand – I hope they will like it," he said.

In the interview, Marbury made it clear that only by winning basketball games would he be able to market his low-cost Starbury shoes to the country with a population of 1.3 billion.

"There are a lot of kids who cannot afford a shoe that costs more than \$100 (680 yuan), but their love for basketball is the purest so I thought I could help them," he said. His shoes sell for as little as \$15 in the US.

(Agencies)

## Soccer boss promises to tackle corruption

(AP) – The new head of China's soccer federation has pledged to attack corruption and lift the Asian sporting power's lowly international soccer ranking.

Wei Di said Tuesday that the widely disparaged Chinese Football Association (CFA) faces numerous "difficult hurdles," starting with restoring its public image.

He said the leadership must eliminate cheating and bribery and "look to our problems as a chance to start anew."

A sweeping probe of match fixing and bribery allegations has netted more than a dozen players and officials, including Wei's predecessor Nan Yong.

Soccer is widely popular in the country, even though the men's national team is ranked No. 97 in the world.

## Nine killed after man seizes bus

(Reuters) – A man in Tianjin hijacked his employers' bus Monday, knocking down pedestrians and killing nine people as he careened through the city's streets, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The 40-year-old man, a dispatch clerk in a transport company, stole the company bus, which was empty, after attacking a fellow clerk with a knife in an argument, Xinhua reported.

Eleven people were also wounded as the hijacker, surnamed Zhang, ploughed through the city streets.

Tianjin police sent dozens of vehicles in pursuit, and Zhang hit three of their vehicles, wounding four officers, before he was caught at an intersection, the report said.

## Panda to be taught Chinese language

(UKPA) – "Ni hao, hello, Mei Lan!" Zookeepers are advertising for a tutor to teach Chinese to a US-born giant panda arriving this week in its parents' homeland.

The language lessons, a special diet and even blind dates are also part of the red-carpet welcome being rolled out for 3-year-old Mei Lan (meaning beautiful orchid) by Chinese caretakers before she arrives Friday on a FedEx flight from the US.

Under a deal between China and the US, all giant pandas originally from China are only lent out to foreign zoos for scientific study for several years. They and any cubs they produce must return to China eventually.

Determined to help Mei Lan adapt more quickly to its new life, the caretakers at its new home, the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Center in Sichuan Province, are recruiting a language teacher via the Internet.

Mei Lan has lived at a zoo in Atlanta, Georgia, since her birth in 2006.

"Mei Lan has been living in the US since she was born, and she must be unfamiliar with Chinese," Huang Xiangming, director of the center's animal management department, told Xinhua News Agency.

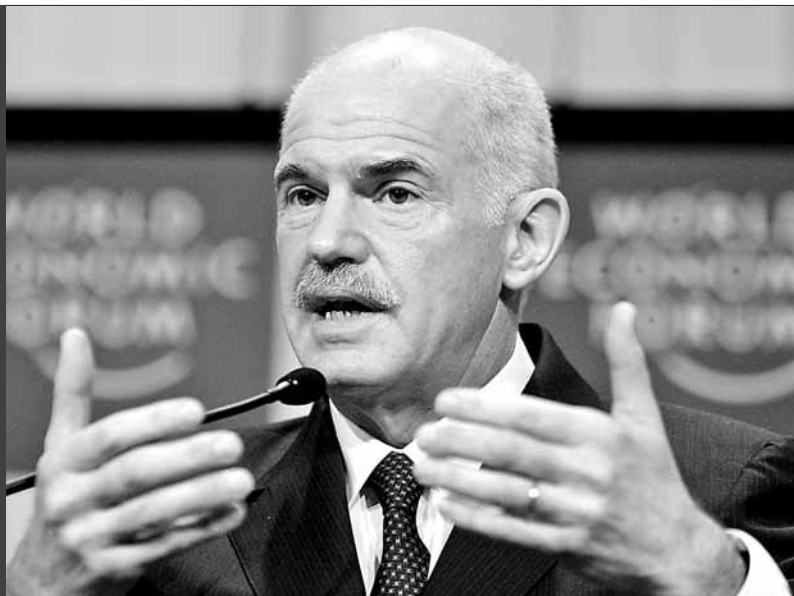


# Can China afford to bail out Greece?

By Li Zhixin

The *Financial Times* reported Wednesday that Greece is wooing China to buy €25 billion (237 billion yuan) of its government bonds. The move underlines China's growing financial power as Greece grapples with soaring debt.

The government made no official comment on whether it would buy the Greek bonds, but media are speculating whether or not China will once again bail out the West.



Whether or not Greek bonds are "poison" is a delicate topic. Greek Prime Minister Papandreu spoke on Greece's economic plight at the World Economic Forum in Davos. CFP Photo

## Greece denies plans

Last Wednesday, Greece's Minister of Finance George Papaconstantinou denied reports the country had already struck a deal with China. He said Athens was still looking to Europe to bond its debt.

But the *Financial Times* reported that Greece called on US investment bank Goldman Sachs to woo China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) into approving a massive bond purchase.

Gary Cohn, chief operating officer of Goldman Sachs, made two trips to Athens – last November and this month – to meet

Prime Minister George Papandreu and senior officials, it reported.

Before this, Goldman Sachs discussed the sale of equity in the National Bank of Greece (NBG), the country's largest lender to Bank of China, and made a similar proposal to China Investment Corp. (CIC), the country's sovereign wealth fund.

Chinese officials reportedly said the CIC was not interested in allowing such a risky investment.

However, the Finance Ministry said it never entrusted any investment bank to negotiate on behalf of the country.

## Pushing bonds

The news about Greece

hoping to bond its debt to China is not all smoke.

The country's debt is climbing above 120 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP); many in the market are wondering whether Athens can service its obligations or whether it will be forced to abandon Euro trade.

Greece is seeking to raise €53 billion (502 billion yuan) this year to reduce its budget deficit to 8.7 percent from 13 percent. The government sold €8 billion five-year bonds at 6.1 percent interest last week.

The government said Tuesday that more bonds are due out this month. The high prices are expected to raise internal pressure to pass unpopular

spending cuts.

Long-term plans aim to cut the deficit to 3 percent by 2012, within the European Union's 3 percent limit. There is some doubt whether spending cuts can happen in a country where reforms are trampled in street protests.

The Minister of Finance said January 20 the government is considering pushing its bonds in Asia and the US, and may market debt to Greek retail investors.

Papaconstantinou said he will visit Beijing and Shanghai this month as part of an investment trip, but that no target for bond sales has been set.

The ministry said the dates of his trip have not been fixed.

## Analysis

### To rescue or not?

The *Financial Times* reported that China's 2.4-trillion-dollar foreign exchange reserve remains not diversified, and said the government needs to reduce its reliance on US Treasuries. It said those reserves may have better use as leverage for diplomatic ambitions.

But the suggestion that China ride to Athens' rescue prompted angry reactions online.

Li Delin, an influential Chinese writer, called the Greek debt "poison." "The Chinese people are poor. Why should we waste money on these treasury bonds?" he wrote.

"What can we get back from spending these €25 billion? Nothing but warm feelings for China in Europe – for about a month," blogger Liu Bin wrote.

Some said China should buy at least some Greek bonds for political reasons. "China shouldn't let Papaconstantinou go home empty-handed. If we do them a favor by giving a drop of water when they're in difficulty, they might reward us with a fountain of water when Greece is prosperous again," Tan Haojun, another blogger, wrote.

But experts urged caution. People close to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said China already holds a significant amount of Greek debt.

"China should avoid government bonds that offer high interest rates like those from Greece – safety should be the first concern," said Sun Lijian, a professor at Fudan Univer-

sity in Shanghai. "China should favor debt from countries with a better economic situation such as Germany and leave the bailouts to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."

Although China wants to diversify its foreign-currency reserves, it should not take such advice blindly, Sun said.

"We shouldn't be conservative, but we can't ignore the risk of acting too fast," he said. "If we buy the bonds in ignorance and Greece's sovereign rating continues to worsen, we might lose some of our surplus."

Yu Yongding, a former adviser to the Chinese central bank, agreed.

"Even if price is attractive, one key problem is the uncertainty about whether Greece

will be able to repay its debt. China should be cautious about buying any of these bonds," he said. "Greece has a lower debt rating than the US and its statistics have been sharply criticized by the European Commission."

"It is unreasonable for an economist to support a diversification away from unsafe assets to even less safe assets," said Yu, currently a member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the government's leading think tank.

"Let European governments and the European Central Bank rescue Greece, and China can try its best to help Greece through the EU or the IMF, which has an institutional framework in place for such problems."

## Bird's Nest plans hotel, boutiques

By Zhao Hongyi

After a year as a commercial venue, the Bird's Nest, site of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, has released a new list of goals.

This year, the Nest plans to open a hotel on the north side of the stadium and a VIP club on the south side, said Yang Cheng, deputy general manager of National Stadium Co, operator of the Bird's Nest.

The company will renovate the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the stadium on the north side into 80 hotel rooms, with 37 rooms on the fourth floor and the rest on the fifth and sixth floors.

The third floor will be converted into a dining hall, and the first floor will become the lobby.

The east side of the third floor will become a luxury restaurant themed on the Olympics.

The third, fourth and fifth floors on the southern side will be used as a VIP club with high-end restaurants, business rooms and conference halls.

The ground floor of the stadium will be used for outlet business. The company said it hopes to attract famous labels and high-end sporting equipment manufacturers to open display rooms.

The warm-up grounds on the northern side of the stadium will be used for courses provided by sports clubs and soccer schools.

The nest has 84 boxes, each 18 to 65 square meters, with nice views of the stadium. The company said it plans to sell the box branding rights to enterprises looking for a promotion. The proposed price is 8 million yuan for 30 years.

The nest also has several meeting rooms and is preparing to rent them out. Depending on the room, they may accommodate groups of 50 to 1,000 people for meetings, parties, conferences and gatherings.

Since the Beijing Olympic Games, the Bird's Nest has been exploring commercial opportunities to support its high maintenance costs of 150 million yuan each year.

In 2009, the stadium held a number of high-profile events like an opera concert by Plácido Domingo, and Jose Carreras, soprano Song Zhuying, popular action film star Jackie Chan, Pianist Lang Lang, Zhang Yi-mou's Chinese version of the opera *Turandot*, the World Races of Champions and a soccer match between Inter Milan and Lazio.

At the end of 2009, the Nest became a snow entertainment park. Though it was far too expensive for the average Beijinger, the carnival was still praised by the local media.

By the end of the year, the National Stadium Co. said it brought in an operational revenue of 370 million yuan with 70 percent of that money coming from tickets.

"The Bird's Nest needs a clear plan for its commercial future," said Yang Lin, a senior journalist who has followed the Nest since construction began.

# Mystery of two tombs

## Economic benefits color authentication of relics

By Huang Daoheng

Emperors Cao Cao and Liu Bei were fierce rivals during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280). If only they knew their rivalry would continue 1,800 years later.

After Emperor Cao Cao's tomb was reportedly discovered last December, another team of archaeologists claimed to have found the burial site of Emperor Liu Bei.

Though neither claim has been authenticated, many people are more concerned about their economic impact than their archaeological value.



Is this the tomb of Cao Cao? Many believe the site's tourism value outweighs questions about its authenticity.

CFP Photo

Last December 27, archaeologists generated a media storm when they announced that the grave of Cao Cao (155-220), founder of the prosperous Kingdom of Wei during the Three Kingdoms period, had been discovered in Xigaixue village, near the city of Anyang, Henan Province.

Chen Ailan, director of the Henan Cultural Heritage Administration, said the tomb had been confirmed as Cao Cao's.

On the surface, the evidence was persuasive. Xinhua News Agency reported that the tomb's size – 740 square meters – befit a king, and that the more than 250 items it held – including gold, silver and pottery – pointed to royalty.

To win over remaining skeptics, the archaeologists revealed that they had unearthed three human skeletons: two females and a male in his 60s, Xinhua reported. Cao Cao is believed to have died at the age of 65.

It seemed the case was closed. But scholars, ranging from archaeologists and anthropologists to historians and professors of classical literature, declined to give their endorsement.

"Not so fast," said Yuan Jixi, a professor specializing in Wei history. He pointed out that the tomb has been looted several times since excavation began, so the objects found could easily have been planted.

Yuan thinks anything is possible

when tourism revenue is at stake.

The residents of Sichuan Province's Pengshan county know what Yuan is talking about. Late last month, they called for an excavation team to come to their village, believing they might have stumbled upon Liu Bei's tomb.

Liu (161-223), also known as Emperor Xuande of the state Shu Han, a rival of Wei, is a well-known historical figure and is believed to be buried somewhere near Pengshan county. Now local residents want to file a claim to the burial site.

The battle for tourism revenue is not limited to ancient rival warlords. Among modern figures, the biggest source of tourism money is former chairman Mao Zedong.

Several places in the country have become tourist attractions all thanks to Mao.

Last December 26, the tourism bureau of his native Hunan Province proposed that Mao's birthday be declared National Tourism Day. The proposal met with opposition from netizens who believed local officials were trying to use the leader's heritage to boost local revenue.

"The reasons (the Hunan tourism bureau has given) are absurd," a netizen from Chongqing said in a forum on sina.com. "Chairman Mao should be commemorated, but setting a tourism day for the public to travel around is not the way to go about it."

## Chongqing deputy wants more female toilet stalls

By Zhang Dongya

Representatives to the Political Consultative Conference and the People's Congress of cities and provinces held last month came up with many "fresh" recommendations. Among them was adjusting the ratio of male-female public toilet stalls, suggested by Zhang Huayi, a Chongqing representative.

Crowded ladies' rooms in restaurants, shopping malls and cinemas are an all-too-common sight, which Zhang said was due to an inappropriate ratio between male and female restroom stalls.

Women's restrooms usually have the same number of stalls as the men's, but the latter also have urinals. "On average, public restrooms in the street and in big shopping centers have four or five urinals; even small bars and restaurants have two or three," Daniel Chen, a Beijing resident, said.

The construction of public restrooms seems to still be guided by the ancient saying, "men make money and women make the home," which reflected the fact that women of olden times did not have much activities outside the house, Zhang said. Now, women have been "liberated" and "hold up half the sky," bringing about a new set of problems, said Zhang, who is also a researcher at Chongqing's city's Institute of Education Sciences.

Zhang said that considering men and women's biological differences, it takes men less time to relieve themselves than women.

In 1989, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development mandated that the ratio of male to female public restroom stalls be set at 2 to 3. The latest regulation on construction and management of urban public toilets, dated 2008, says "public toilets should be constructed with full consideration of the ratio between genders and the demands of different people, instead of the blind pursuit of a favorable appearance."

Public response to Zhang's recommendations has been mixed. Some say legislators should pay more attention to big issues, not trivialities; others agree with the suggestion and think it has a big influence on people's daily lives.

"I advise that we not only have more stalls for women, but also equip restrooms with dressing tables – Women spend more time in the toilet and sometimes have to fix their makeup," Wendy Zhou, a Beijing resident, said.

## Comment

### Respect archaeology and history

Archaeology and history are serious matters. Verifying the authenticity of the tombs should be independent of their economic value. More research should be carried out by more experts before any of the sites is officially recognized. I sincerely hope that local governments show enough respect for history and archaeology when they verify the tombs' authenticity.

— Gu Fang, archeology researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

### Economic benefit for local govts

The discoveries of Cao's and Liu's tombs are not only of academic interest, that's why they've sparked a controversy. Many cultural sites have been turned into commercial centers to earn revenue for local governments. So it's no wonder that authorities in Henan and Sichuan provinces are pulling out all the stops to stake their claims

to the final resting places of Cao and Liu, respectively.

— Wang Jin, commentator with The Beijing News

### Doubting the experts

Whether they are fake or not, the public just wants to know the truth. We, the public, have regarded experts' opinions as sacred for far too long, which they have violated by their repeated lies. Many so-called experts have compromised their academic integrity for power and profit, so when the

public doubts the authenticity of Cao's tomb, they are casting doubt on the reliability of these experts.

— Felix Pallis, PR adviser

### Academy needs questioning

It doesn't matter what people say about the tombs, the most important thing is that society maintains its spirit of questioning validity. Questions encourage academics to improve on their areas of specialization.

— Chen Jun, editor with Xinhua

## Background

## Country faces difficulties in historical relics protection

Lack of money and weak public awareness hinder the country's efforts to protect famous historical and cultural relics, said Chen Linguo, professor with the school of history at Beijing Normal University.

He cited other problems: some local officials do not fully imple-

ment relic protection measures and some relics are not properly catalogued. But he said the country's relic protection program might benefit from these archaeological controversies if the right steps are taken.

The tombs have certainly generated interest nationwide. In

Henan's capital, Zhengzhou, bookstores are inundated with requests for titles on the life of Cao Cao. This craze has helped the sales of historical tomes, such as *The Romance of Three Kingdoms and Commentaries on the late Han Dynasty*, local media reported.

"Demand is outstripping

supply and managers have had to order new titles from publishers," a Zhengzhou shop owner was quoted as saying.

Visitors are also flocking to historical sites connected with Cao, including his residence as emperor and a training ground for his soldiers.





John Neumeier

# Giving ballet a modern twist

By He Jianwei

US choreographers have dominated the German ballet scene since the mid-20th century, helping revive dance in the country. Among these artists is John Neumeier, director and chief choreographer of the Hamburg Ballet, who is in Beijing with his company to stage *The Lady of the Camellias* at the National Center for the Performing Arts until February 9.

The 68-year-old Neumeier is frank about the challenges of keeping alive classic art in modern times. Clad in a black suit over a red sweater, he frowned when he talked about the future of classic ballet, but said hope remained as long as choreographers put their hearts in their craft.

"Honesty is the best policy for artists. They must seek the character on stage in their own hearts. If they don't believe in the character they created, the audience won't believe it as well," he said.

## Seeking the freedom to create

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US, Neumeier received his first ballet training at the University of Wisconsin and later studied in New York. He left for Europe to work at the Royal Ballet School in London in 1962.

He danced with the Stuttgart Ballet from 1963 to 1969, and then became ballet director of the Frankfurt Opera House from 1969 to 1973. Since 1973, he has been director and chief choreographer of the Hamburg Ballet.

"I had an instinctive feeling that Europe would free me, so I thought I'd go to Germany for a year. When I left the US in the early 1960s, it was a dry time for dance," he said.

In the US, theater programs were heavily influenced by sponsors and only popular shows remained onstage. Artists had very little say in the lineup.

"Every country has an experience with the positive and negative aspects of art management," Neumeier said. "We have a wonderful dance education in the US, but when it comes to creating, the American system is more market-orientated."

Neumeier saw a different situation when he arrived in Germany. Dance companies balanced their programs between what the market dictated and what art demanded.

"The government gave more support to companies and we were free to do anything, as long as we earned a certain amount," Neumeier said, adding that he believed these were some of the reasons many American choreographers moved to Germany in the 1960s.

This exodus of choreographers helped bring about a post-war revival of classic ballet in the country. Before they came, there was a flourishing modern dance movement but no major ballet company in Germany.

## No second to Verdi's opera

Neumeier has emphasized the preservation of ballet tradition while introducing modern dramatic framework into his works. His commitment to this vision can be seen in his version of ballet classics such as *The Lady of the Camellias*, currently on stage in Beijing.

Based on Alexandre Dumas' novel of the same name, the three-act ballet made its debut in 1978. Neumeier came up with the idea

for a dance drama in 1973 on the day he attended the funeral of John Cranko, former choreographer and artistic director of the Stuttgart Ballet.

"In 1976, during a lunch with Marcia Haydee [Cranko's muse and the new director of Stuttgart Ballet], I came up with the idea of creating for her *The Lady of the Camellias*," he said.

The subject had been chosen,

but the music stumped him. His first thought was to have a Giuseppe Verdi opera rearranged, but soon abandoned the idea. "I didn't want my ballet to become secondary to Verdi's opera," he said.

As the start of rehearsals drew closer, he bumped into the ballet's conductor, Gerhard Markson, and asked him, "Which music would you choose for a ballet inspired by Dumas' *The*

*Lady of the Camellias*?"

The conductor thought for a few minutes and said, "Chopin or Berlioz, or both."

Without thinking twice, Neumeier chose Chopin, thinking the Polish musical genius had a similar experience with the ballet's lead female character, Marguerite Gautier. Both of them suffered from illness and were famous in Paris salons.



The Lady of the Camellias



John Neumeier emphasizes the preservation of ballet tradition while introducing a modern dramatic framework into his work.

Photos provided by the National Center for the Performing Arts

## Defining modern through classic

Ballet in the 21st century faces a problem of capturing audiences, especially younger people who grew up surrounded by pop culture. Neumeier believes the key lies in using classic techniques expressed in "modern ways." The most important aspect is that "the story touch people today," he said.

Germany's modern dance culture is more developed than its ballet tradition, and Neumeier seems to have responded to the challenge by fashioning a ballet style that borrows from both traditions: the fairy tale scale of ballet's narrative and the contemporary psychological introspection of modern dance.

For *The Lady of the Camellias*, the choreographer chose to tell the story in a series of flashbacks, in which Armand Duval, the young hero, recalls his life with Marguerite Gautier. The story opens with Duval attending the auction of Gautier's possessions after her death.

Neumeier thought that if the characters and story touched him, it would have the same effect on viewers. His efforts have helped the Hamburg Ballet bring German ballet into the new century, imbuing upon it a distinctive contemporary edge.

"For me, making art is instinctive," Neumeier said. "But you prepare yourself to be instinctive. You prepare yourself for the moment you will be called upon by the art."



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# Charity sale for children with cerebral palsy

By Wang Yu

Last Saturday was an unusually busy workday for Leslie Simpson, founder of charity store Roundabout in Shunyi District. A second-hand book and toy sale was being held in the shop to raise money for 40 specialized wheelchairs for children with brittle bone disease.

The books and toys, most of which were donated by Shunyi's foreign residents, occupied several shelves, making the shop resemble a flea market. Some students from the British School came in the morning and bought 1,000 yuan worth of things. Two people bought neither books nor toys; they just left money enough for two wheelchairs. Many parents came with their children, who left clutching new toys.

"The toy shelves were almost empty by noon. I think at least 200 people came by to help," Simpson said.

She meant helping children with cerebral palsy (CP), also known as brittle bone disease. People with the genetic disorder are born with defective connective



Leslie Simpson (far right), founder of charity store Roundabout, Cheryl Wyse (second from right), founder of Agape, and children at the charity sale

Photo by Song Nannan

tissue, or without the ability to generate it, caused by a lack of the protein collagen that builds bone, nails, skin, ligaments and teeth. The absence of collagen leads to bones fracturing very easily, which in turn can result in small stature and deafness in adulthood.

The sale's recipients are children under the care of Agape, a

Hebei-based NGO that provides housing, education and training to Chinese children, many of them orphans. Most have CP and were abandoned by their families who could not afford their health care. The youngest child under Agape's care is a year and a half.

The CP wheelchairs are the only way those with brittle bones

can move about. But unlike ordinary wheelchairs that cost 1,500 yuan, these special wheelchairs are more than triple the price: 5,000 yuan. But being an NGO, Agape – run by American couple Keith and Cheryl Wyse – does not have enough funds to purchase 40 wheelchairs. So Roundabout stepped in to help.

"We've contacted a Japanese company who offered a much lower price. It all depends on how much money we can raise," Simpson said.

Some children from Agape participated in the event, selling baked goods made by Bread of Life Bakery, also run by the Wysees. It doubles as a training center for Agape's disabled teenagers; they are taught how to bake bread, pies and cakes so they can help run the bakery. Its profits, in turn, go toward purchasing orthopedic equipment for the children with brittle bones.

By closing time, the charity sale raised 28,700 yuan, enough for 20 CP wheelchairs. That takes care of half of what they needed.

## Yugongyishan holds concert for Haiti quake victims

By Annie Wei

More than 400 people crowded into Yugongyishan Wednesday for Hope for Haiti, a charity concert that raised funds for Haiti's earthquake victims.

Performers included bands The Verse, Afroko Roots, Skarving Orchestra, MeiWenti and Blackie & Slide. DJs also played powerful blends of Afro and Caribbean music like reggae, drum and bass, funk, soul and afrobeat.

Many of the attendees were foreigners. Alice Lyons, 35, a math teacher at an international school, said she found out about the event through email.

The concert was organized by Funk+Fever, a Beijing-based group with members from Germany, the US and the UK, which wants to bring more musical diversity to the Chinese capital by helping popularize music like funk and soul.

The 50-yuan entrance and 10 percent of the bar's income for the evening was donated to Partners in Health, a nongovernment organization that has been working in Haiti for 20 years.

On January 12, a magnitude-7.2 earthquake hit the Caribbean nation, killing more than 200,000 and injuring 300,000, according to the latest government data.

Since the capital Port-au-Prince was hit by the devastating quake, many groups around Beijing have been helping raise money to support rehabilitation efforts in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

## Beijing Playhouse succeeds in its one-month show performance



Beijing Playhouse's production of *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* finished its one-month run last month at the theater of the Yew Chung International School.

Photos provided by Chris Verrill



## Event

### Free Black Tiger trial classes

Every Saturday until February 28, Black Tiger Academy offers a variety of free sample classes that will teach children perseverance, focus and self-discipline, as well as valuable self-defense skills.

Where: Black Tiger at Club Hero, Suite 110, Building D, Cable 8 Loft Yard, 8 Langjiayuan, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Saturday of February, 10 am – 12:30 pm

Tel: 6581 9231

Cost: Free

### Spanish guitar concert by Rafael Serrallet

Rafael Serrallet, one of the best Spanish folk guitar players of his generation, has held numerous international guitar recitals, including a performance at the Lincoln Center in New York City. His Beijing show will feature popular Spanish pieces by composers like Albeniz, Falla and Rodrigo.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, A1 Gongti Nanlu, Chaoyang District

When: February 5, starts 7 pm

Tel: 5879 9666

Cost: Free (confirm attendance by emailing cultapek@cervantes.org.cn)

### Seminar on how to register dogs

Dog registration for 2010 to 2011 begins May 1. Experts from the International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) will discuss the steps in dog registration and vaccination requirements.

Where: ICVS, Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang District

When: February 6, 11 am – noon

Tel: 8456 1939

Cost: Free

### "Small Spring Festival" celebration in a hutong

According to the lunar calendar, February 6 is *xiaonian* or "Small Spring Festival." In ancient times, on this day people cleaned their homes, ate sweet melon and made paper-cut window decorations. 90 Percent Travel offers a trip to a *hutong* to join a family in a traditional dinner, paper cutting and lighting fireworks.

Where: A house in a hutong, to be decided

When: February 6, 5-9 pm

Tel: 5962 6850

Cost: 190 yuan, 20 percent off for children under 16

(By Liang Meilan)



# Liaison offices hot spots for Spring Festival celebrations

By Liang Meilan

The central government has announced that 582 out of 900 city- and provincial-government liaison offices in Beijing will be shut down within six months as part of an anti-corruption drive.

Many of these liaison offices are popular dining and shopping spots, selling local cuisines, snacks, handicrafts and staging cultural performances. The Sichuan Province liaison office, located in a *hutong* in Jianguomen, is considered to offer the most authentic and delicious Sichuan dishes in town.

Many Beijing residents are flocking to these offices to take advantage of their offerings before they close. Some offices are holding special food events and performances for Spring Festival, and many are already fully booked for Spring Festival Eve.

The liaison offices were set up to facilitate communication between the central and local governments. They also provide accommodations to local officials who come to the capital on business.

Below are some of the most popular liaison offices for dining and shopping this Spring Festival:

## Guangxi Liaison Office

It has an art gallery showcasing artwork by its Zhuang minor-



Yunteng restaurant offers authentic Yunnan cuisine and is packing during holidays.

Photo by Yu Xiao

ity and regularly holds folk dance performances. On the building's first floor are Guangxi specialties, like rice wine, bamboo shoots and teas.

Where: Guangxi Building, 6 Shuanghuayuan Nan Li, Beisanhuan, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6771 3384

## Henan Liaison Office

It has a display of some 50 types of local products for bulk pur-

chases, including new year pictures, pen holders, medicinal balms, eggs and potatoes.

Where: Henan Building, 28 Panjiayuan Huaweili, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6774 5648

## Urumqi Liaison Office

Its shop sells locally grown fruits like pears, apples, grapes, dates and cantaloupe. Those who want to buy in bulk need to order in advance.

Where: 1 Chegongzhuang Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6835 3040

## Yunnan Liaison

Its Yunteng Restaurant offers the specialties of its Dai minority: *mixian*, or rice noodles. The decoration and music are also authentically Dai.

Where: Building 7, Donghuashi Bei Li, Chongwen District  
Tel: 6713 6439

## Barter goes online, gaining popularity

By Liang Meilan

Bartering has made a comeback in a recession-racked, cash-strapped world. It allows people to acquire goods or services in exchange for goods or services as well. Money plays no part in transactions. Items bartered online range from hairpins to cars.

In China, bartering is quickly gaining a foothold online, becoming popular among young urbanites trying to cut costs and live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

Bartering has the thumbs-up from green groups as it prolongs a product's "life span."

Xiao Xuan, 21, a university student in Beijing, has been bartering online for three years and has closed at least a hundred deals. "It's really an ideal way to deal with unwanted but useful things, and I enjoy the process of browsing numerous items posted online and the moment I bargain with other traders," she said. "It teaches me how to live economically."

There are two main ways to barter online.

On websites like *shede.com*, traders have to register to post a list of their items. The items will be evaluated by website employees and each will be assigned a value – an "e-currency" – based on its estimated cost. With the e-currency as a guide, people can exchange items with other website users.

The other way is more straightforward: people only have to nego-

tiate with the owner of the items they want until both sides come to an agreement.

Items bartered online are not only used goods: some new ones are also traded. Every barter website has a search function that will help users easily find the things they need. Transactions are supervised by website managers.

Some of the most popular barter websites today are the following: *8huan.com*, *comhuan.com*, *feo.com.cn* and *huanba.net*.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

I bought a piece of silk cloth that I want to make into a *qipao* (a traditional dress with a high collar and slit skirt). Can you recommend a good dressmaker?

If you're willing to spend the money, we recommend Ruifuxiang, a century-old dress shop renowned for its "qipao" designs and craftsmanship located on Qianmen Avenue. Call them at 6303 5764 or visit their website, [ruifuxiang.cn](http://ruifuxiang.cn).

I forgot to bring along the charger for my Sony Handycam HDR-HCR. Is there a place where I can buy a replacement?

Near Wudaokou station on Subway Line 13 is an electronics shop that sells genuine Sony products and accessories. Drop by during regular store hours. Address: Room 417, 4/F Wudaokou Commercial Center, Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. It does not have a business phone.

Can you help me find a salon that does both back waxing and tanning?

Check out Kocoon spa lounge and elixirs in Sanlitun. They offer good waxing services at competitive prices. They also have tanning beds. Call 5208 6068.

Do you know a place that can help me? I want a Western design rather than a traditional Chinese one.

Jimei Furnishings is one of the biggest furnishing companies in town and provides customization and door-to-door service. They have many Western-style curtains you can check out. Call 8788 5588 or visit their website at [jimei.com.cn](http://jimei.com.cn).

(By Liang Meilan)

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**“Rather than pit ancient against modern, they are more interested in a middle ground – things that are part of our cultural legacy.”**

– Wang Hui, project director and head of the Information Office of Beijing

Photo by Tian Yufeng



# Bang

## Beijing's last week at Europaalia.China aims to leave a mark

A few hours before her flight to Brussels, Wang Hui was finishing up a two-and-a-half-minute video on Beijing, which will be screened before each theater performance.

She tried to step back and see it through the eyes of a viewer who is indifferent to China. “Will it move someone like that?” she said.

Wang is among a group “with a deep understanding of and pride in Chinese culture.” She and others came together for Europaalia, the biggest ever art festival with a comprehensive showcase of Chinese music, fine arts, photography, cinema, theater, dance and literature.

“It’s the chance to tell a good story about China,” she said.

The Europaalia International Arts Festival, held every two years since 1969, offers one guest country the chance to present its cultural heritage and contemporary arts. In the early days, participants were neighboring countries. Since 1989, it has invited Mexico, Japan and Russia. Since last October, it has been China’s turn.

“We are responding to the world’s attention. The world sees what we have become, but knows little about why we are here,” Wang said.

### Meeting people

As a gigantic country of 1.3 billion and armed with *The Art of War*, the intimidating China has achieved the fastest economic growth ever. That ominous air is magnified when its mainstream international image is framed only by movies showing the dark side of human nature, like *Raise the Red Lantern*, or conspiracy, like *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

“They (the world) know little about Chinese people,” Wang Hui said.

To fight that ignorance, the exhibition “Three Dreams of the Mandarin” and five films will be screened in Brussels as the main events of “City of Beijing in Brussels.” The presentations will help viewers connect with common Chinese stories, dreams, love and humor.

Curated by Francoise Lauwaert and Espace cultural ING, the exhibition brings together 100 antiques, paintings, books, jades and other objects from museums and private collections to show the world of the mandarins and scholars between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Before 19th century Western art, nature was just the decoration around the human figure. But in China it played a greater role: people, surrounded by grandiose landscape, saw themselves as a small part of it. They looked to nature for reflection.

Curators captured that spirit and linked it with “Three dreams.”

“Bamboo Dream” illustrates the priorities of a mandarin’s life: independence from power, friendship with peers and intensive artistic discipline. “Cherry Tree Dream” tells the love stories of men and women who express their love to share artistic and literary tastes. “Butterfly Dream” recreates the environment of a garden, a place of intimacy, of the communion with nature, and the lotus is its central element.

The five films being screened are, by contrast, concerned with the modern idea of family, history, love, art and country.

The lineup of *In the Heat of the Sun*, by Jiang Wen, *Keep Cool*, by Zhang Yimou, *My Father and I*, by Xu Jinglei, *Sun Flower*, by Zhang Yang, and *Forever Enthralled*, by Chen Kaige, spans works from 1994 to 2008.

“I’m so eager to show them what China is like today, what young people are thinking about,” Wang Hui said. Though rejected by Belgium, Wang said the new romance

*Sophie’s Revenge*, produced by Zhang Ziyi, was also a good representation of Chinese youth.

### Teahouse of inspiration

The teahouse is to China what the cafe is to the West. Tea Palace, opened last September before the festival, is a place for people to exchange their thoughts.

Beyond Gu Wenda’s hot lantern cover is the information center and a real tea house where visitors can learn about China and buy exhibition catalogues. During the last week, visitors can sample teas blended by Beijing’s experts, watch craftwork demonstrations and listen to concerts performed on traditional instruments.

Wang, a veteran with 10 years of culture communication experience, traveled with craftsmen, Peking opera actors, traditional musicians and acrobats to cultural festivals in the US, France, the UK and Russia to interact with visitors.

“At first, people just observe from a distance, but little by little, they come closer to learn and play together with us,” she said.

Peking Opera makeup artists paint children’s faces and calligraphers use brushes to write out locals’ names in Chinese. Some people who are more musically inclined take a shot at playing on the group’s *guzheng*, a classical stringed instrument.

“We can always find an inspirational way to do our job,” Wang said. She is expecting a new memorable encounter to come out of the Brussels’s teahouse, she said.

“I’ve learned so much and met so many people doing these teahouse activities around the world. They refresh me and give me the inspiration to go on for many more years,” she said.

Another event about mutual inspiration is the “Charming Beijing” photography exhibition, which is held at each Beijing culture week.

Since 2002, the Information Office of Beijing has invited photographers from China and abroad to capture Beijing at its best from May to October. The government provides all the services they need and retains the right to use the photos in non-commercial events. The photo archive has over 5,000 shots, with themes ranging from the old capital to the modern metropolis.

### Creative heritage

Mayor Guo Jinlong announced his blueprint for Beijing to become a “world city”: a city that seduces with the unique.

Since early in the festival, Beijing reporters said the modern exhibits were attracting fewer visitors than the ancient ones. One local said it was because modern things look the same everywhere while the ancient ones were unique.

The acrobatics and modern dance, performed by the China National Acrobatics Troupe and Beijing Modern Dance Company at the closing ceremony, are good examples: the acrobatics performance sold out.

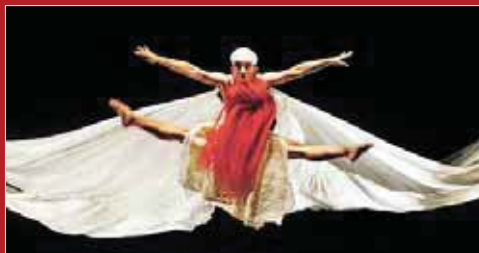
“I don’t think they split it so cleanly to look at only one or the other,” Wang said. “Rather than pit ancient against modern, they are more interested in a middle ground – things that are part of our cultural legacy.”

But there is still a long road ahead. After all, one festival, or even a dozen festivals, is far from enough. “Cultural communication is not just hustle and bustle, but comes from ongoing cooperation,” Wang said.

“We’ll keep doing the job until it the heart changes.”

For more information on Europaalia.China and the six events of “City of Beijing in Brussels,” visit [europaalia.eu](http://europaalia.eu).





*The mixing Peking Opera and modern dance*

CFP Photo



*Photo exhibition of traditional culture*

By Yu Shanshan

After four months, the Europalia International Arts Festival "Europalia.China" is drawing its curtains in Brussels.

Wang Hui, project director and head of the Information Office of Beijing, offered a sneak peak of six final events, exhibitions, films and performances.

"This ending (of Europalia) may leave a question mark or ellipsis, but we hope it will go out with an exclamation mark," she said.



*Ten Palace, Gu Wenda's hot lantern installation in Brussels, is an information center and real tea house where visitors can learn about China and buy exhibition catalogues.*

Xinhua Photo

# Literary genius in a girl's scribblings

By Charles Zhu

Most readers know *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank's account of her 25 months hidden in an Amsterdam attic during the German occupation of the Netherlands. Her diary has remained an object of controversy and admiration. Francine Prose reappraises Frank's literary genius in *Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife* (322pp, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers, \$24.99).

In July 1942, the Franks, prosperous Frankfurt Jews, went into hiding in Amsterdam with the help of sympathetic friends and colleagues. There, in loneliness, Anne began chronicling the daily dramas of her life and recording Nazi roundups in a diary she called "Kitty."

After the Franks were arrested by the Gestapo, one of their protectors, Miep Gies, puts their notebooks and loose pages, including Anne's diaries, into the bottom drawer of her desk. After the war, Otto Frank, Anne's father – the only member of the family to survive the concentration camps – tried to have the manuscript published in Holland under the title, "The Rear Annex."

At first, American and British publishers deemed the diary too narrow, too downbeat. Alfred A. Knopf found it "very dull," thinking it but a "dreary record of typical family bickering, petty annoyances and adolescent emo-

tions." Critics dismissed its literary worth and its value as a historical document.

However, Prose does not agree with the charge that the girl's diary was but the inconsequential scribbles of an adolescent whose death from typhus elevated it far beyond its value as a work of literature. "Few other writers have given rise to such intense emotion, such fierce possessiveness, so many arguments about who is entitled to speak in her name," she said.

She called Frank the "Jewish Joan of Arc," the secular saint who famously said, "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."

Prose argues that Frank is so special because of her "sensibly and understandably mixed view of human nature."

"I had become increasingly impatient with the notion of Anne Frank as the perky teenage messenger of peace and love," she said. "Such a misreading of Anne's book and her message; I'd thought, constituted a denial of what happened to her after the diary ended, and of the cruel fates that befell millions of equally innocent men and women and children."

With *Anne Frank*, Prose means to cast the girl in a more realistic light. She believes that the diary is less the serendipitous reflection of a precocious adolescent than the intentional work of a young author who tailored her

material very much for effect.

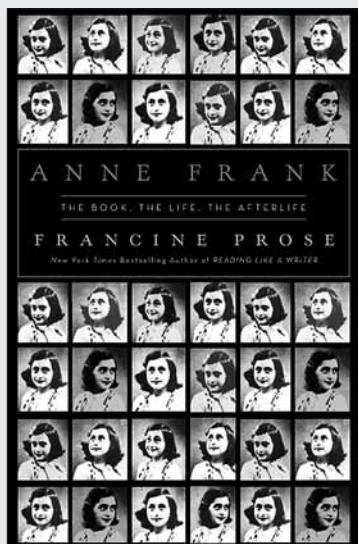
In the spring of 1944, after a radio broadcast in which Gerrit Bolkestein, minister of education, art and science in the exiled Dutch government, called for the establishment of a national archive to house "ordinary documents" after the war, Anne Frank began to rewrite and revise earlier diary entries for her effected audience. She made scenes more vivid, deepened characterization and shifted "from meditation to action, from narration and reflection to dialogue and dramatized scene."

There's no criticism in calling Frank's diary crafted; if anything, the opposite is true, Prose writes.

Over the years, Otto Frank edited out passages about his daughter's sexuality or her conflicts with his wife. "In fact," Prose writes, "what seems most probable is that his editing was guided by the instincts of a bereaved father wanting to give the reader the fullest sense of what his daughter had been like."

Three quarters of the Jews in the Netherlands died and 107,000 Jews were deported between July 1942 and September 1944. Neither the will to survive with the maximum humanity nor the will to extinguish with the maximum brutality makes sense without the other, Prose said.

That is the divisive legacy of Anne Frank and her book.



## A generation neither man nor woman

By Li Zhixin

"Chinese boys between the ages of 7 and 17 are 2.54 cm shorter than Japanese boys. Chinese boys are getting physically weaker. Chinese boys are now emotionally more vulnerable than girls."

*Save the Boys* (211pp, The Writers Publishing House, 20 yuan), published last month, issues this simple warning to Chinese society: boys are becoming vulnerable.

A toxic combination of pop culture and an education system that inhibits masculine development is to blame, says Sun Yunxiao, author of the book and a professor at the Teenager Research Center.

"We have talked so much about equal education for men and women in the past decades, but we neglected the fact that boys and girls should be educated differently at school," Sun says.

The book contends that the exam-centered education system puts boys' growth at a major disadvantage. "Boys' physical and spiritual development comes later than girls', so most boys do not perform well in primary and high school. Scoring poorly on exam after exam leaves them feeling discouraged; it has negative impact on their self-esteem," he says.

"Boys stop being boys at school because school education is unisex. Teachers always demand that boys sit still and be obedient,"



he says.

He argues that the tradition of "caged breeding" produces children who are like little emperors. The frequent absence of corrections from a father and the mother's overprotection are having a feminizing effect on the nation.

"A father should be the first and most important example of tolerance, responsibility, bravery and decisiveness for boys, but many young fathers ignore this because of

stress or because they themselves are immature," Sun says.

With the absence of male teachers, most boys are growing up in a female-only environment.

The blame may have as much to do with pop culture. In recent years, the pop industry has been elevating androgynous figures like Li Yuchun.

"Feminine men on TV do not influence grown-ups very much, but they can be extremely confusing for children. When Chinese boys grow up they imitate these gender-ambiguous pop icons instead of taking on traditional male roles," he says.

The author calls on boys to participate in sports and grow up to be real men. "Boys should be active outdoors at least four times a day. They need an outlet for their physical strength and energy," he says.

## Timezone8 book listing

Timezone8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it recommends three new titles for *Beijing Today* readers.

**Wang Guangyi**

By Karen Smith, Yan Shanchen and Charles Merewether, 204pp, Timezone8, \$40.00

The 17-year career of a contemporary art giant forms a rich tapestry of imagery, ideas and ideology. Since the mid-80s, Wang Guangyi has stood as a role model for his fellow artists. His parodies of masterpieces of Western art, including Leonardo da Vinci's *Virgin and Child with St. Anne* and Jacques-Louis David's *The Death of Marat*, continue to inspire.

**Zhuang Hui: Ten Years**

By Meg Maggio and Zhang Li, 130pp, Timezone8/Courtyard, \$35.00

During the past 10 years,



Zhuang Hui has made a name for himself with his black-and-white, 180-degree-pivoting-camera shots of workers, peasants and soldiers. These and 140 other images are collected as a photographic journal from one of China's top photographers.

**Cang Xin: Existence in Translation**

By Huang Du, Zhu Qi, Chang Tsong-zung, Meg Maggio and Feng Boji, 200pp, \$19.00

Cang Xin is a Beijing-based performance and conceptual artist active since the mid-90s. As a participant in *To Add One Meter to an Unknown Mountain*, now a defining image of contemporary art, Cang began to find his own artistic identity in the 1994 work *Trampling Faces*. Like much of his later work, it explored issues of "self" and "other" in a way that was both ceremonial and spontaneous, always depending on the participation of others for completion.

(By He Jianwei)





# Is China ready for tabletop games?

## Born in the classroom

Huang Shan studies at Renmin University – well, he does when he and his roommates are not playing Sanguosha, the tabletop game that took Chinese colleges by storm in 2009.

The rules are new but familiar. Its designer converted the party game Mafia into a deck of cards.

"I think the best part is it gets players away from the computer screen," Huang Shan says.

But when Huang Kai, its designer, invented the first version of Sanguosha, he hadn't been planning on resurrecting a dead genre.

In 2006, Huang was still a sophomore at Communication University of China. As part of his studies in game design he played 10 imported board games.

At that time, Huang was one of few in the niche. Magic: The Gathering had been introduced to China long before, but few players saw its potential.

Back then, office workers spent their nights at "Mafia bars" playing the party game that lets one kill his enemies by manipulating opinion.

So Huang fused the rules of Mafia and Bang, a related German game, to create Sanguosha. The game was set in the Three Kingdoms Period with characters borrowed from the classic novel. Huang first taught his friends and the game spread rapidly.

That October, he opened his first Taobao store to sell decks of the handmade cards.

Huang and Li You, an animator, continued to modify the game until they met Du Bin, a Ph.D. student at Tsinghua University who saw a new opportunity in the cards.

Du was another of China's few tabletop game players and he was keenly aware of their absence. So in 2008, the trio formed Yoka Games to give board games another chance.

## A social game

"Chinese tabletop game players are totally different. In Europe, games are grouped as family games like Monopoly or professional games with only a few devoted players. In China, most are in between. Players are interested in the gaming scene, but don't want to get too deep," Li You says.

Li is the product director of Yoka Games. After college, she went on to graduate school to study animation. 2006 was the year that she discovered tabletop games and became an event organizer for a local gaming club.

Since Sanguosha became popular, that club has changed a lot.

In September, 2008, the third edition of Sanguosha was printed. The tree-person development team decided to handle promotions among players. The game's rules are more complicated than Mafia, and curious players can hardly master it by only reading the manual. Playing against a senior player is essential,



and a good game requires at least six players.

"Chinese players are concerned more with its social function. You can meet strangers and make new friends by playing. Some may be useful contacts in your future career, so the result of the game is a lower priority," Li says.

That social component was why Du Bin was confident from the outset.

In Shanghai, which has a bigger tabletop gaming scene, there used to be only about 10 board game bars in 2008. Since the new Sanguosha cards came out, that number has grown to 700. Beijing has about 100. Those bar owners and existing players are the marketing arm of Yoka Games.

"Many women are playing because it offers a new social experience," Li says.

## Bright future?

Li says there are three reasons for Sanguosha's success: it is the first Chinese-made tabletop game, its setting is familiar and it's cheap to get started – 40 yuan per pack.

In 2008, Shanda Online got involved in creating an online version of Sanguosha. At its peak, there were 30,000 playing online.

That number may be small when compared to how many players World of Warcraft draws. But unlike Warcraft, the Internet version of Sanguosha helped to free more game nuts from the computer and sent them to the game bars. A player's scores online and in authorized bars can be saved to his account, strengthening real-world ties.

"There are users who play in the bars during the day and go home at night to play more online. But the needs of online players are different: they play for self-satisfaction, not their social life," Li says.

Yoka Games has designed two more original games, one of which will be released soon. The team spends much of its time in big cities along the east coast. From conception to debugging, it takes the group several months to create a game.

"The new games are easy to play. Players just need time to get used to the new rules and Sanguosha is complicated enough. Too much new stuff will only scare off fans," Li says.

Early tabletop game bars in Shanghai were opened by people from Wenzhou and were focused on business rather than gaming.

In Beijing, Li and her partners won players but lost old friends who looked down on their game's adaption of an existing trend. Media and game agents also criticized Sanguosha.

"That was the hardest thing to bear. The game is very different from Bang but people don't recognize the effort. We don't want to be 'the company that made Sanguosha'; we're 'a company that designs original board games,'" Li says.

By Wang Yu

Tabletop games never had a chance in China, where entertainment leaped from mah-jong to PlayStation with nothing in between.

While many overseas gamers may remember growing up with Monopoly on rainy school afternoons, the only Chinese players to master the game of Life learned it during their travels abroad.

But that was before Sanguosha.

The Chinese-made game draws its avatars from the historical epic *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. With it, creators Huang Kai, Du Bin and Li You have given tabletop games a second chance in China.



The number of tabletop game bars in Shanghai grew from 10 to 700 after Sanguosha took the country by storm. Photos provided by Yoka Games

# Spring Festival gifts for the "one"

By Annie Wei

Spring Festival this year occurs on the same day as Valentine's Day, which has stirred a huge debate about who best to spend the day with: your family or your sweetheart?

That's a problem for each individual to solve. The best advice we can offer as gift for your sweetheart so you can show the person how much she or he means. Ranging in price from 25 to 800 yuan, there is surely a gift in here within your budget.



Lover cups, 158 yuan

These "couple cups" feature popular cartoon characters. One cup is the head, while the other is the body. Perfect for a shared cup of tea or coffee in the morning.

Traditional lamp cover, 90 yuan

It may look like a shopping bag, but it has a loftier purpose. This lamp cover, made of paper that can withstand high temperatures, can help create a romantic atmosphere for an unforgettable Valentine's Day celebration.



MRKT hongbao, 49 yuan

Giving cash is the easiest way out of racking your brains for a suitable gift and braving the holiday shopping crowds. This MRKT hongbao is made of felt and etched with the character *fu*, which means happiness and fortune. You can be sure your money will be wrapped in good wishes.



Rabbit-fur notebook, 120 yuan

What can be a more ideal gift for a cute girlfriend? Women like fluffy things, especially in pink and white (some in grey and black, but please don't ask me why). When she wants to take a break from scribbling, she can rest her head on the notebook's soft surface.



Matilian candle holder, 348 yuan

Red matilian flowers mean purity, happiness and fondness. A subtle way of saying "you're important to me."

Photos provided by Liu Yun

Where: Original Design workshop, Building 10 Basement, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 10 am - 10 pm  
Tel: 6415 2472  
Web: [chinesedesign.org](http://chinesedesign.org)



Chocolate notebook, 25 yuan

If roses are for girls, then are chocolates for boys? Be that as it may, many Chinese men do not have a sweet tooth, so why not give him this chocolate-pattern notebook instead. When he opens the packaging, he'll be enveloped by the sweet, tempting smell of chocolate. Maybe this will change his mind about eating the sweet stuff.



MRKT men's wallet, 118 yuan

This has been one of the coldest winters in history and urbanites - no surprise - have been resorting to "retail therapy" for warmth. This felt MRKT men's wallet is a good storage place for your shopping ammunition. It is environmentally friendly, water proof and comes in various happy colors.

Chinese horoscope bookmarks, 146 yuan each

This series of bookmarks depicts the ears of the 12 Chinese zodiac animals. Each design is studded with a Swarovski crystal. A practical but luxurious and well-made present.



Rabbit sculpture, 860 yuan

If you're looking for an arty, pricey present, you've found it. This rabbit sculpture comes in various colors, and will make a great centerpiece.



I-like-you necklace, 699 yuan

This is a simple silver necklace with two pendants: the outline of a boy and a girl. Behind the boy is a flower design, representing his wishes for everlasting love. This will be a hit among shy, tongue-tied Chinese boys.





# Sumptuous South African steak



Canopy private dining room

By Han Manman

South African steakhouse The Meat & Wine Co. boasts of "steaks you will leave home for" and an extensive range of quality wines. The restaurant, which has more than 20 branches in Britain, Australia, South Africa and the Middle East, opened its Beijing location last year.

Bathed in hues of red and orange, its dining room sits before a bustling open kitchen. The chef recommends the 500-gram rump (480 yuan) and the 300-gram fillet (350 yuan) from prime Wagyu meat. The steaks, priced 258 to 550 yuan, come with your choice of among eight sauces, including blue cheese and vodka, and Portuguese style, apart from the more common creamy mushroom and barbecue relish.

Most of the meat on the menu is imported from Australia, the restaurant's Australian Indonesian executive chef, Ferdy Widjaja, said.

Besides steak, the restaurant also recommends Boerewors (70 yuan), a dark, strong traditional South African sausage, which is available on its own or with beef riblets, chicken wings and calamari. The riblets and chicken wings add a honey barbecue flavor.

Other specialties include hal-loumi cheese (60 yuan), perfectly grilled and served with tasty Mediterranean vegetables, and beef car-

paccio (70yuan), soft slivers of Angus tenderloin served with sliced pear.

For dessert, try the popular warm chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream (88 yuan), which contains chocolate syrup with a hint of cinnamon.

The Meat & Wine Co. houses Beijing's first "wine tunnel" leading to a cellar of hand-picked wines from boutique wineries in South Africa, New Zealand, Chile and China.

The restaurant has promotions to welcome the new lunar year. On weekends, it offers brunch for 148 yuan, where customers can combine a popular main dish, such as a chargrilled steak, ribs or Boerewors, with an egg done according to their choice. There are also numerous options for vegetarians and the health conscious.

Every Monday, the restaurant offers buy-one-get-one on glasses or bottles of wine. It will also reimburse customers' taxi fares to and from the restaurant.

**The Meat & Wine Co.**

Address: 23 Qianmen Dong

Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6512 1761

Open: 11 am - 11 pm

Steaks are grilled to perfection  
Photos provided by Meat & Wine

## Cantonese with a sprinkling of Western

By Ammie Wei

Hun, located in a hutong across from the Central Academy of Drama Theater, is so quiet that many passersby think it is a book bar. The two-story building is actually a Cantonese restaurant owned by a couple, Feng Xiaoyuan and Ren Yi, who worked as a chef for 20 years at a Hong Kong dining, entertainment and real estate company.

The place is popular for its breakfast and brunch menu, served from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. Apart from your standard toast, bacon and fried eggs, Hun offers special tomato and egg series (16 yuan), including tomato and egg sauce noodle and fried tomato and eggs. For a more local flavor, try home-made noodles with mushroom and pork sauce (16 yuan) served with two cold dishes.

For lunch or dinner, try the chicken legs or wings braised in cardamom and huadiao, a yellow rice wine from the south. Two legs or wings with salad and fries cost 35 yuan. Hun prepares three or four broths each week.

The restaurant's menu is regularly updated with additions like *qingcai luroujuan* (20 yuan for 3 pieces), pork belly wrapped in vegetables and mushrooms and coated with mustard and cream.

Hun offers wine - mainly white, the owners' preference. House white costs 35 yuan a glass, while a bottle goes for 200 to 800 yuan.



Fried tomato and egg sauce noodle  
16 yuan



Hun's first floor  
Photos provided by Ren Yi

The restaurant's second floor, which has a sun roof, is perfect for people who want to spend a lazy afternoon with a cup of coffee and a good book. Its coffees cost 18 yuan and a refill is another 8 yuan. The upper floor is also ideal for private parties with a minimum order of 1,000 yuan.

Hun's meticulously designed toilet deserves mention. Before opening the restaurant, Ren Yi spent a lot of time studying hutong renovations and designed the furniture himself.

**Hun**  
Where: Opposite the south gate of the Central Academy of Drama Theater, Dongmianhua Hutong (off Nan Luoguxiang), Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am - midnight  
Tel: 8404 5231

Cost: Starting from 50 yuan per person

## Three-Michelin star chef's innovative dinner

By Ammie Wei

Marc Veyrat, a three-Michelin-star French chef, prepared dinner for two nights at the Summit Club last weekend. Forty-two people attended the exclusive event, most of whom were company executives and members of the French diplomatic community.

Veyrat, who came for his first cooking event, started with virtual yoghurt, juice of acha, then wild green asparagus, passion fruit and rosemary, egg "a la coque" (on the shell) with foam of corn and carvi. The main courses included disappearing noodles (no flour, no egg) with its cardamine sorbet, seabass in its acidule sauce and nonnette coulis, poached scampi with wild thyme, doughnut of cow-parnsip cooked in liquid nitrogen, vegetables baby pot and truffle juice.

For dessert, he prepared 3 creme brulees: coffee, lavender, star anise and blanc manger of licorice, sesame, pistachio and oat ice cream.



Egg "a la coque" (on the shell)  
with foam of corn and carvi  
Photo provided by Summit Club

The meal cost 3,880 yuan per person.

The chef joined diners on the floor when he prepared doughnut of cow parsnip. While liquid nitrogen is usually only found in a school laboratory or hospital, Veyrat carries his own container, which he uses to prepare some specialties. Last weekend, he used it to freeze the doughnut of cow parsnip: cream-filled doughnut of passion fruit.

The Summit Club is an elite dining place with Western and Chinese cuisine, cigar

rooms and the biggest wine cellar in town, its general manager, Lucient Sui, said.

Born in 1950 in France, Veyrat is one of only four chefs to have ever received three Michelin stars twice, and the only one to have ever received a perfect score on the accompanying certificate. Veyrat, who has never attended a cooking school and did not take cooking seriously until he was 30, is known for his creativity and innovation, particularly in using herbs grown in the French Alps. He developed vegetable dishes using the rhizome of various wild plants to replace flour, cream and butter.

Veyrat's Paris restaurant L'Auberge de L'Eridan is one of the most sought after in the world: it has a waiting list of six months.

**The Summit Club**

Where: No. 8 Kehui Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 7:30 am - 11 pm

Tel: 5824 9882

Cost of membership: call for details

# Between folk art and film

By He Jianwei

Seven is the maximum number of items that a typical person can recall on the fly, which US psychologist George Miller publicized in his classic 1965 paper, "The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two." The landmark study's title is now the name of US video artist Tony Oursler's first China solo exhibition.

For more than three decades, Oursler has been creating art focused on information and media and their effect on humans. The uncertainty that many people feel, their alienation from society and the fragmentation of the world in the face of information explosion are common themes in his works.

Oursler, who is fascinated by the potential of new technologies like film and video, uses them to recreate reality. He is known for videos and installations that combine moving images with speech, theatrical performances and sculptures. Some of his videos

are projected onto dolls, balls, building surfaces, treetops, even clouds of steam.

"Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two," which opens at Faurschou gallery on Sunday, features works from the early 1990s to the present.

Upon entering the exhibition hall, visitors will be greeted by *Doll*, one of Oursler's earliest works. It combines the body of a rag doll and a face created by a video projector: it is a hybrid between folk art and film.

The next piece, *Cigarettes*, is a series of oversized, tubular screens with high-definition images. The effect is that of a smoldering, virtual forest of various Western brands of cigarettes. The work brings up difficult questions about human indulgences and the cost of economic and social development.

In another installation, a head pieced with a film collage for eyes and mouth is spouting absurd sentences. Here Oursler discusses the interaction



Classic, 2003

Photo provided by Faurschou Beijing

between humans and machines, and points out that the creation of new technology is an answer to a human desire.

**Tony Oursler – Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two**

Where: Faurschou Beijing,

798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: February 6 – March 5, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9316

## Upcoming

### Movie

**The Mission (1986) and Hallam Foe (2007)**  
Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District  
When: February 11, 6:40 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 8229 6153

## Stage in March

### Concert

**Impressions of New York – The American String Quartet**

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: March 13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-400 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Chopin Cycle I

– All Mazurkas

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (in Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: March 14, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7845

### Dance

**Her Story**

Where: Small Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: March 4-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-380 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### The Color of Love

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: March 6, 7 pm  
Admission: 80-180 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

### Drama

**Mao Zedong's Reverie at Xibaipo**

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: March 10-14, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-400 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Musical

**Butterflies**

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: March 3, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-680 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Opera

**The Voice from Heaven – Countertenor Andreas Sholl Recital**

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: March 5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

## 5 Friday, February 5

### Exhibition Times

Where: PYO Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 28, 9:30 am – 6:30 pm  
Mondays to Saturdays, 10 am – 6:30 pm Sundays  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5202 3814

### Movie

**In the Mood for Love (2000)**

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, North section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students  
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

### Paper Heart (2009)

Where: Sculpting in Time – Beihang, 37 Xueyuan Lu (in Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics), Haidian District

When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 15 yuan  
Tel: 8231 0664

### Nightlife

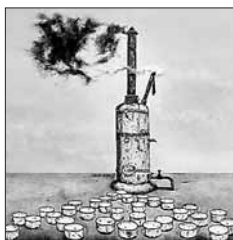
**Punk Night**

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 6586 0065 ext. 8213

### Rafael Serrallat

– Guitar Concert

Where: Instituto Cervantes, 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free (reservations by email necessary)  
Email: cultipek@cervantes.org.cn



Times

## 6 Saturday, February 6



Loose Trousers – Zhao Xi Solo Exhibition

### Exhibition

**Loose Trousers**

– Zhao Xi Solo Exhibition

Where: Jindian Space, Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baizwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 21 except weekends, 9 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 0536

### Old Beijing Toy Exhibition

Where: Sony Explora Science (in Chaoyang Park), 1 Chaoyang Park Nan Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until March 7, daily, 9:30 am – 5 pm

Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students, free for children under 1.2 meters and people older than 65  
Tel: 6501 8800

### Movie

**Comrades,**

**Almost a Love Story (1996)**

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, North section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: 2 pm

Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students  
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

### Perhaps Love (2005)

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6270 1928

### Nightlife

**Mr. Freeman**

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 9:30 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 40 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6401 4611

## 7 Sunday, February 7

### Exhibition Fantasy – You and Me Group Exhibition

Where: Joey Chang Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 20, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6436 4520

### Movie

**Electric Shadows – Screening of Experimental Films**

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 2-4 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 6400 6452

### Hunting Down Memory (2009)

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9269

### Nightlife

**Dreamer's Love**

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District  
When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students  
Tel: 6265 3177

### Play Rock

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 6586 0065 ext. 8213





# Shed the shoes for a better run

By Li Zhixin

Runners and athletes are always searching for the next great shoes to improve performance and reduce injuries, but a new study says shoes are the problem.

The solution? Run without them. Many who conducted the study believe running barefoot can change a runner's form and body mechanics to prevent some common athletic injuries.

## Best shoes may be none at all

A team of researchers suggests that running without any footwear could be better for the feet and joints of the lower limbs because it encourages the use of a different set of muscles as well as a gait that avoids repeated heavy impacts.

Modern running shoes encourage "heel-striking" between the back of the foot and the ground, whereas barefoot running makes people more springy, the study concluded.

Daniel Lieberman, a professor in Harvard University's department of human evolutionary biology and his colleagues, published their findings in the January 28 issue of *Nature*, a British science journal.

Lieberman and colleagues found that barefoot running — the norm before more recent innovation — may give better protection against repetitive-impact injuries caused by striking the ground with a force equivalent to several times a person's body weight.

The study compared runners in the US and Kenya, where many have run barefoot since childhood, and found barefoot runners were less likely to strike their heels.

Barefoot runners were more likely to land on the front part or ball of the foot, and they adjusted their leg and foot movements so that they landed more gently on the ground, the scientists found.

"People who don't wear shoes when they run have an astonishingly different strike. By landing on the middle or front of the foot, barefoot runners have almost no impact collision, much less than most shoe runners generate when they heel strike," Lieberman said.

"Most people today think barefoot running is dangerous and hurts, but actually you can run barefoot on the world's hardest surfaces without the slightest discomfort and pain. All you need is a few calluses to avoid roughing up the skin of the foot. Furthermore, it might be less injurious than the way some people run in shoes," he said.

Modern running shoes have cushioned heels that encourage landing on the back of the foot, which can be painful when barefoot. How-

ever, cushioned heels mean a typical runner is pounding the ground heavily at a rate of about 1,000 collisions per mile, said Madhusudhan Venkadesan, also of Harvard University, in Cambridge.

"Heel striking is painful when barefoot or in minimal shoes because it causes a large collision each time a foot lands on the ground. Barefoot runners point their toes more at landing, avoiding this collision by decreasing the effective mass of the foot that comes to a sudden stop when you land, and by having a more compliant, or springy leg," Venkadesan said.

Lieberman said the pronounced arch of the human foot shows that human beings are built for long-distance running. "Humans have engaged in endurance running for millions of years but the modern running shoe was not invented until the 1970s," he said.

But be careful if you want to make the switch. "Running barefoot or in minimal shoes is fun but uses different muscles. If you've been a heel-striker all your life you have to transition slowly to build strength in your calf and foot muscles."

## Tips for barefoot running

Exercising without shoes may sound painful, but the idea is that your feet need a workout too, Jiang said.

**1. Don't land heel first.** "It is absolutely jarring to your heels, knees and back. Imagine the force of your body weight coming down on your heel; the shock goes from your heel to your knee and directly to your back. So, to survive, you and your body have to adapt to landing on the balls of your feet," Jiang said.

Doing so dissipates energy along the flexion of the foot as the heel comes down later: after the ball.

"Don't focus too much on landing on the balls of your feet. You may overwork your calves if you deliberately land on the balls of your feet," he said.

**2. Run with head and torso directly above legs and feet.** Leaning forward is not beneficial to comfortable barefoot running. Look straight ahead, scanning the ground only to avoid obstacles. Relax your shoulders and arms, but minimize arm swing.

**3. Bend knees when landing.** This absorbs more of the impact. Straight-legged landings are for heel striking, but are counterproductive in barefoot running. Bend your knees before each

landing for a quicker take off.

**4. Stretch calves, Achilles tendons.** Running on the balls of your feet works out the calves. If the calves are not adequately stretched, be prepared for some cramping.

**5. Start slow and go short.** "Initially, start with one-mile runs or shorter and at a slow pace. Then, gradually increase the distance and pace," he said. "Avoid shifting from side to side because this wastes energy."

**6. Keep a short stride.** Long strides encourage heel striking and can tire you out if you are just starting to run barefoot. Short, quick strides are better, especially in the beginning.

**7. Obey your body.** If your feet or legs are sore, slow down and stretch. If this doesn't work, stop and catch your breath. Walk for a bit and try to run again. If the soreness persists, just walk back to your starting point. If you push yourself too hard, you may strain muscles and prevent yourself from running again for a week or more.

"Monitor your body closely. If you feel discomfort, adjust your stride or footfalls. Experiment and find the best workout without unnecessary discomfort," he said.

## Not for those with diabetes

Barefoot training still remains controversial. Many podiatrists cringe at the notion of unshod feet pounding the pavement.

"If we want to mimic barefoot running, shoes should come with broken glass and twigs," says Zhang Peng, a podiatrist. "The emphasis should be on getting the right shoe for your foot."

Doctors were also loathe to endorse barefoot running, and strongly discouraged it for patients with diabetes, for whom a foot wound can mean serious complications.

People with foot pain or past injury should consult a sports medic, trainer or physical therapist before shedding their shoes.

"Start slowly. Beginners can start on grass, a clean sidewalk or a rubberized track. Be careful not to overdo it and give the feet and muscles time to adapt," said Jiang Chunyan, a sports medicine expert at Beijing Jishuitan Hospital. "If you aren't willing to give up shoes while running on streets and trails, you might consider switching to a more flexible shoe or one with less padding if you like the way barefoot training feels. Yoga, pilates or group fitness classes that allow you to exercise while barefoot are also options."



CFP Photo

# Gods of the gate

## New year art in a small town off Tianjin



The Yangliuqing store in the Ancient Culture Street in Tianjin

### God of the Gate

The images evolved from Tang Dynasty (618-907) pictures of the God of the Gate and became widespread during the Song (960-1279). They became part of the mainstream because of one Tang emperor's nightmares: according to the classic text *Shan Hai Jing*, or *A Chinese Bestiary*, Emperor Taizong (626-649) often saw whining ghosts in his dreams, so he asked two generals to stand guard at the palace gates in their full-battle gear and only then did the ruler resume peaceful, uninterrupted sleep. The emperor later asked a painter to draw a pic-

ture of each general in full armor and had the pictures posted at the palace gates; thus, the God of the Gate was born.

According to art historians, the oldest new year picture to have been discovered is "The Four Beauties" made during the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589). The four beauties include Wang Zhaojun, a concubine of Emperor Jingning of the Western Han (206 BC-25 AD), who offered to marry the chieftain of the Huns Huhanyia, to promote peace with the nomadic tribe that frequently raided China.



Typical Yangliuqing new year pictures



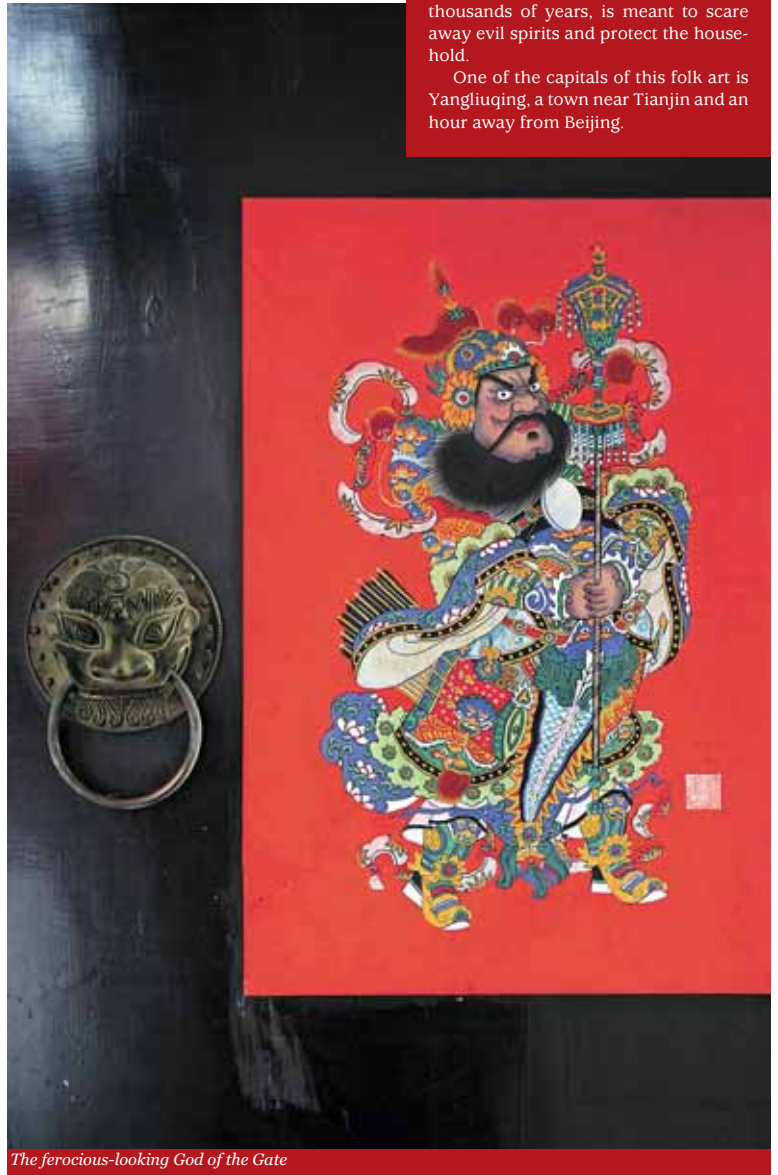
Artists show drawings of new year pictures.

CFP Photos

By Charles Zhu

To welcome the new lunar year, many families decorate the doors of their homes and their living rooms and studies new year pictures in bright red, purple and green portraying meticulously drawn figures or wildly exaggerated imagery. This tradition, going back thousands of years, is meant to scare away evil spirits and protect the household.

One of the capitals of this folk art is Yangliuqing, a town near Tianjin and an hour away from Beijing.



The ferocious-looking God of the Gate

### Green Willow Town

Yangliuqing (Green Willow) is one of the four towns known for producing exquisite new year pictures. The quiet town, 20 kilometers west of Tianjin, lies in the lower reaches of the Daqing River. It has supported this industry for thousands of years.

The Huos, a family of craftsmen, probably best represent Yangliuqing's ties to traditional art. They got into the new-year-picture making business during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and own the shop Yu Cheng Hao, run by Huo Qingyou, the sixth generation of artisans in his family.

The art is called block printing, and the production process begins with sketches on a wooden block. The images are then converted into bas relief, and paper and ink pressed over the mold.

Finally, the ensuing pictures are painted with splashes of bright colors.

The art of block printing was temporarily forgotten during the tumultuous years of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Huo Qingyou picked it up in the 1980s, after the country instituted economic reforms and people were encouraged to rediscover folk art and restore lost traditions. Huo has spent the last three decades perfecting the art. His shop resembles a museum of new year pictures, with treasured designs from various periods on display.

The art came to Yangliuqing between the late Yuan (1271-1368) and the early Ming (1368-1644) dynasties. Local lore has it that Huo Yutang, a wood-

cutting artist who moved there as a war refugee, spotted a grove of jujube trees on the outskirts of town and was hit by a flash of inspiration that it could be a source of fortune. He knew better than anyone else that jujube wood was the best material for making printing blocks.

So Huo Yutang made his mark by making pictures of the God of the Gate and the Kitchen God for Spring Festival. His business thrived thanks to the reopening of the Grand Canal, north of Yangliuqing, during the reign of the Yongle Emperor (1403-1424) of Ming; better-quality paper and pigments came through the canal from the south. The folk art reached its peak during the reign of emperors Yongzheng (1722-1735) and Qianlong (1735-1795) of the Qing Dynasty.

Continued on page 21...





New year pictures from the town of Taohuawu in Jiangsu Province

... continued from page 20

The town has produced tens of thousands of printing blocks. The shop Dan Lianzeng alone once made 2,000 blocks a year, with each block producing 500 pictures. This meant it churned out more than a million pictures annually. More than 30 villages around Yangliuqing were also involved in the industry; virtually everyone in the vicinity was working as a new-year-picture artist.

The industry went downhill after the Second Opium War (1856-1860) until Huo Yutang, Huo Qingyou's father, set up the town's biggest picture shop, Yu Cheng Hao, in 1926. The late Premier Zhou Enlai once visited Yangliuqing and offered to help Huo Yutang find a rare yellow pigment.

### Hope for a new year

The pictures are testimony to the aspirations of ancient people and denote optimism for the new year. In agricultural China, where a bountiful harvest and happiness were tightly bound, a classic that has emerged is "Lian Nian You Yu": a playful figure with a child's face and the Buddha's body, holding a carp in his arms and a lotus in his hand. The images symbolize "successive years of plenty," as the Chinese word for fish is a homonym of "plenty" and lotus that of "successive."

Some pictures have moral or aesthetic messages, while others depict historical events, legends, myths, local customs and heroes or heroines in traditional dramas. Landscapes, flowers and animals, notably the golden rooster, spring cattle and birds, signify aspirations either for a good life or a career in civil service.

Themes of longevity also feature prominently, usually represented by a very old, white-bearded, saintly looking man leaning on a twisted tree trunk towering over him. A plump boy frolicking with a carp or one swimming over a river of gold ingots stands for the wish for more boys in the family and greater wealth to be made in the coming year.

Love stories are also a favorite topic of new year pictures. These include China's Romeo and Juliet, Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, the tragic shepherd and a weaving maid separated by the Milky Way.



### Three other picture capitals

The town of Taohuawu (Peach Flowers) north of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, stands out because of its unique approach to folk art. Its new year pictures evolved from images embroidered on silk fabrics characterized by subtlety and attention to minute details. Peach red, bright red, blue, purple, green and lemon yellow are used generously. Sometimes artisans add a dusting of gold or silver for extra pomp. Great attention is paid to symmetry.

Yangjiabu, Weifang, Shandong Province, offers guided tours of its folk culture. Visitors will see some of the 100 best pictures the town has ever produced, the tools of the trade and copies of treasured ancient pictures. People can also watch how the pictures are made at the 200-year-old picture shop, Tong Shun De.

Mianzhu, Sichuan Province, found its niche in the industry through paper made from local bamboo. Its pictures embody Sichuanese humor: one that combines sarcasm with exaggerated mischief. Some examples are a rat marrying off its daughter, a dog biting the God of Fortune and three monkeys pouring hot water on a pig.

### Travel Tips

Getting to Yangliuqing: Take the Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan expressway to Tianjin, heading south toward Yangliuqing. Alternatively, take the 30-minute express train to Tianjin at Beijing Nanzhan (Beijing South Railway), then take a bus to Yangliuqing.

### Shopping Tips

New year pictures are also available at the following markets: Liulichang and Changdian markets near Hepingmen station on Subway Line 2, Panjiayuan antique market on East Third Ring Road or the General Arts and Crafts Shop on Wangfujing commercial street.



The frolicking boy on a jumping fish, a new year picture leit motif for centuries.

CFP Photos

## Dining



### Piedmont

Piedmont in Italian means "the foot of the mountains." The Po Plain, located between the Alps and the Apennines, is a fertile area intersected with long rows of poplars, cereals and rice. The most famous dishes are brasato al Barolo (braised beef with Barolo) and finanzia, originally a stew. Bollito or boiled meats is a dish served without any extras.

Where: Regent Beijing Hotel, 99 Jinbao Lu, Dongcheng District  
Tel: 8522 1789



### Early bird deals at Traders Cafe

Come before 7:30 pm on weekdays and 12:30 pm on weekends to enjoy a super meal at half price. This offer is not applicable on certain holidays or at special events and cannot be used with a discount card.

Traders Cafe offers Asian specialties and international cuisine in a bright environment with an open kitchen and a landscaped garden. Hainanese chicken rice, bak kut teh and laksa are all favorites. In addition to Southeast Asian food, guests can also enjoy salmon, steak and desserts at the buffet.

Where: Traders Cafe, Traders Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6505 2277 ext. 35

### Scene of Valentine's

For a Valentine celebration beyond the usual, bring your loved one or gather your family and closest friends for a festive buffet. Your sweetheart won't be able to resist this bountiful buffet of succulent seafood and classic Scene favorites. Enjoy free fresh juice, soft drinks and heart-shaped handmade gourmet chocolates. There's another more delightful surprise for the ladies.

Where: Scene a Cafe, China World Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
Cost: 999 yuan per couple (15 percent service fee)  
Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 35



### Love me tender

This Valentine's Day, fall in love all over again with a very different dining experience at the award-winning One East. For 999 yuan (15 percent service fee) per couple, enjoy a romantic Valentine's shared menu of seductive cuisine paired with a bottle of Mumm Champagne. The 1,999-yuan package adds a luxurious spa treatment for two and a stylish King Deluxe Room at Hilton Beijing for the night.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: February 14  
Tel: 5865 5030

### Made in China set menu

Kent Jin, star chef of Made in China, has three Spring Festival set menus featuring favorites such as old-fashioned Peking duck and boiled dumplings, pan-fried Grade 8 Wagyu beef and steamed bird's nest with dates and honey.

Where: Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District  
Cost: 688 yuan, 888 yuan or 1,288 yuan per person (15 percent service fee)  
Tel: 8518 1234



### Celebrate Valentine's Day

Experience an unimaginably intimate Valentine's Day at the Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun. Remember an array of sweet moments during this special weekend. The Valley Cafe set menu includes marinated scallops with beluga caviar; cream of zucchini with thyme and shrimp; pan-roasted Australia beef tenderloin with goose liver and red wine reduction; pan-roasted sea bass fillets with goose liver; white wine reduction and with chives and shallots; a luxury dessert sampler of strawberry cream cheese with mango ice cream or truffle chocolates; and a glass of house red wine.

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District  
Cost: 538 yuan per couple (15 percent service fee)  
Tel: 5993 8888

## Event

### The Wonderful Shopping Adventure

Sanlitun Village is hosting The Wonderful Shopping Adventure 2010 to celebrate Chinese New Year. Local designer Xue Tie created a fairy tale-themed silver Wonderful Adventure set.

Spend 2,000 yuan to receive a one-of-a-kind collectable valued at 200 yuan. Spend 500, 1,000 or 2,000 yuan or more in a single day at any store or restaurant in the Village to be eligible for gifts through February 28.

Spend 500 yuan in one day for a Sanlitun Village red package plus coupon. Special prizes are provided by partner stores like Mango Box, Slim Taste, Olas de Mare, La Zazou, Cold Stone Creamery, Herbal Cafe, Macau Taste, Union Bar, MEGABOX, Original Design Circle and ASC. Prizes may differ in value.

(By Zhang Dongya)

## Hotel



### Yao Chi Grand and Majestic private dining rooms

A range of New Year specialties will be featured in Yao Chi's private dining room set menus. The meals are ideal for family reunions and special gatherings.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 15699718760

### Mercure Beijing Downtown opens March

The new Mercure Beijing Downtown has a unique location in the Central Business District, near East Third Ring Road and Chang'an Avenue. There are 373 rooms — including a choice of 44 garden-view suites and 19 duplexes — a Western and a Chinese restaurant, a lobby bar, a fitness center, business center and an indoor heated swimming pool. There is also a pillarless ballroom, seven meeting rooms and ground parking for 120. The hotel is 30 minutes from the airport and near subway lines 1 and 10.

Where: Mercure Beijing Downtown, 16 Jia, Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6773 7816

### Kempinski Hotel Best Business Hotel in Dalian

The winners of the 2009 Business Traveller China Travel Awards have been announced, and the Kempinski Hotel Dalian was named the Best Business Hotel in Dalian, cementing its leading position in the local hospitality industry.

Although shook by the world financial crisis, the Kempinski Hotel Dalian hosted the Summer Davos Economic Forum and provided quality service at its renovated luxurious facilities. It has been praised by guests, government and media.

### New GM of Sunworld Dynasty

Ken Tang was appointed general manager of Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, Beijing. During his more than 20 years in the industry, Tang has worked as director of sales and marketing, resident manager and general manager for a number of international hotel brands including Ritz-Carlton, Marriott and New World Hotels. He brings a wealth of experience in hotel operation.

## Tourism

### Experience Greek culture

OMILO Education Service, founded in 1996, is dedicated to promoting Greek culture and providing Greek language lessons. Recently it started a new program of intensive Greek classes in the picturesque town of Nafplion on the sunny Cycladic islands of Syros and Andros. The next academic year will be from March to October. Lessons run from 9:30 am till 1:30 pm, and each class will have three to nine students. The schedule gives students more time to experience Greek daily life.

For more information, visit [omilo.com](http://omilo.com)

(By Sun Feng)



## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# Message through the grapevine



By He Jianwei

Officemates Tina Zhou and Rachel Luo were gossiping over lunch one day.

"Have you noticed that there's something different about our manager?" Tina said with a knowing grin. "I heard through the grapevine that she is pregnant, but I don't know anything more."

"Really? You found out the last time we went grape picking?" Rachel said.

"No, I found out during her birthday party. It was actually her secretary who whispered it to me," Tina said.

"But you just said you found out through the grapevine."

"I meant I heard the news from someone who heard it from someone else. That's what 'heard through the grapevine' means. It's an idiom I learned from an American friend," Tina said with a wink.

Rachel got a bit embarrassed by her mistake and changed the topic. But as soon as she got back to her desk, she went

online and read up about the idiom.

She learned that it comes from the term "grapevine telegraph," which was first recorded in a US dictionary in 1852. The phrase was coined after the first practical public demonstration of the telegraph in 1844, when US inventor Samuel Morse sent a message from Washington to Baltimore. The invention was widely used as a means of rapidly communicating news.

This new direct "down-the-wire" telegraph was compared to the earlier news dissemination process, which was similar to the coiling tendrils of a vine. There was also an allusion to the interactions among people: dynamics found among people working in grapevines in rural poor areas.

The term was used in a newspaper article on *The Reno Evening Gazette* in 1876: "It would seem that the Indians have some mysterious means of conveying the news, like the famous grapevine

telegraph of the negroes in the [American Civil] war."

In Australia, a similar term, "bush telegraph," emerged, referring to the informal network that passed information about police movements to convicts who were hiding in the bush. It was first recorded in 1878: "The police are baffled by the number and activity of the bush telegraphs."

In the UK, the equivalent was "jungle telegraph": communications in outposts of the British Empire at around the same period.

The phrase "I heard it through the grapevine" is probably best known as the title of the Motown song recorded by Gladys Knight & the Pips in 1967 and by Marvin Gaye in 1968.

Although the telegraph's heyday is long gone, person-to-person communication – that you may also call gossip – that preceded it is still going strong.

## Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

## 1. Even being listed as a national cultural heritage offers little protection from advancing demolition crews.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** There is nothing wrong with this sentence grammatically. But let's talk about rhetoric: the art of writing to influence or persuade others. The participle phrase "being listed as a heritage" seems redundant and gives the reader a heavy and unpleasant impression. I think it would be better if we change the participle phrase led by "being" into a participle phrase led by "listing": Even listing as a national cultural heritage offers little protection from advancing demolition crews. This is simpler. We could also make the subject a noun: The status of a national cultural heritage offers little protection from advancing demolition crews. One rhetorical principle is that we should try our best to avoid using a participle phrase in the passive voice as the subject.

**Native speaker Steven Sandor (SS):** While the participle phrase does pad the head of this sentence needlessly, I don't think such a simple fix makes a significant difference. Consider rewriting a sentence if you are unhappy with it: But demolition crews advance despite its national heritage status.

## 2. Substitute teachers under 40 years old

**ZS:** We previously discussed the formal and colloquial ways to express age in English. It is increasingly prevalent to use "40 years old" as a noun: The 40-years-olds have just begun to live, as a philosopher puts it. Or: The 20-somethings, most born in the 1980s, are less prepared for responsibility than their elders. This usage seems to have been accepted by the mainstream media. However, I don't think "under 40 years old" is acceptable: "40 years old" is an attributive, not a noun. You should write "under the age of 40," "under 40 years of age," or simply "under 40."

**SS:** The professor's example of "under 40" is the best choice as long as the context makes it clear that 40 is measuring age. Sometimes this may not be the case, and in these cases, I think "under 40 years old" is still acceptable. It saves the writer a word, and brevity usually wins in writing. Few readers will misinterpret the phrase to be an attributive in this context because it fits with modern usage.

## 3. There are lots of blame to go around.

**ZS:** This is a very interesting sentence. See anything wrong? Native speakers would say: There is lots of blame to go around. As "lots" is a plural form, why is there the singular form of the third person? It probably has to do with the speaker's intent. I think "lots" here means "much." "Lots" in informal English means "a great many" or "a good deal" and can be used as an adverbial in the sense of "very much." For instance, lots of time, lots of money; I feel lots better. Formal English avoids this usage. It is informal to say: He tried lots of (or a lot of) different shots, but lost. The formal English would be: He tried many shots, but lost.

**SS:** "Lots" is a quantifier I find awkward for counting blame: probably because blame is not something you can count. Blame is something that comes in one lump, big or small: you either have "a lot of blame" or "a little blame." If I had to say this sentence as a native speaker, I would say: There is a lot of blame to go around. Of course, my personal preference would be "plenty." It sounds natural and provides an obvious dodge around this problem.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# 'Bunt' door to open

By Tiffany Tan

When people see the sign "push" or "pull" beside a door handle, I wonder if they also pause for a moment before moving to quickly run the correct action through their heads. I bet more than a few do; the Bookworm bookshop and cafe in Sanlitun, for one, has a door sign that says, "pull (the opposite of push)."

Last Saturday morning, I went into an eatery to get some porridge – the first thing I dared to eat after 24 hours of not being able to hold down any food or water. I was feeling weak and disoriented, and after the meal wanted nothing



Photo by Tiffany Tan

more than to make my way back to the nearby hospital to see if it was

my turn with the stomach doctor. But I got more disoriented when I stood facing the door and saw that below the Chinese character tui was "bunt" where "push" should have been. I guess I was not that sick because a few hours later, I came back to take a photo of the sign.

When you think you have seen most of the Chinglish signs out there, a new word for "push" comes along. As a verb, bunt means to strike or push with the head, much like a head butt. It is also a baseball term, which means to push or tap a baseball lightly with the bat without swinging. It turns out there aren't just two ways to open a door.



### Movie of the week

With all its heartbreak, awkward moments and miscommunications, love is hard. It's even harder if you have Asperger's Syndrome.

*Adam* is the sensitive but not sentimental story of one mentally challenged man's romance. Like many people on the autism spectrum, Adam's disability manifests itself as an inability to pick up on emotions, thoughts and feelings.

When Beth, a new neighbor and aspiring children's book author, moves in next door, Adam's world will never be the same.

### Synopsis

Adam is a handsome but intriguing young man whose sheltered existence is rattled by a new neighbor: Beth, a beautiful, cosmopolitan young woman who pulls him into the outside world.

Their implausible and enigmatic relationship reveals just how far two people from different worlds can stretch to find an extraordinary connection.



### Scene 1: Beth meets her dad at a restaurant

**Beth Buchwald (B):** Are you and Mom still going to Barbados this year?

**Marty Buchwald (M):** Well, we're still deciding.

**B:** Oh. Really?

**M:** There's a little problem that has to be dealt with.

**B:** Between you and Mom?

**M:** No, no. At the firm. There was an indictment last March.

**B:** There was an indictment of the firm?

**M:** No, of me, personally, no less. It's nothing. Some junior *G-man* (1) playing Clarence Darrow. But there's a trial date now. January 19.

**B:** A trial?

**M:** Yeah, so we have to work everything out before then. But bullshit, if you'll excuse the expression, expands to fill the allotted time, so now Barbados is *up in the air* (2).

**B:** Daddy!

**M:** Don't worry. But if you happen to come up with the next *Harry Potter*, we may need it to pay the *ganef* (3) lawyers.

### Scene 2: Central Park

**B:** I'm so sorry. I just don't feel like any company tonight.

**Adam Raki (A):** Oh, that's OK. Come out with me. I wanna show you something. Beth?

**B:** Adam, the park's closed.

**A:** J-Just a little bit further.

**B:** I wanna go back! I'm not-

**A:** Shh-shh-shh. Over here.

**B:** Adam, I ...

**A:** Shh-shh-shh!

**B:** Raccoons in Central Park? That was so cool. What are they doing here?



**A:** Foraging (4).

**B:** How did you know where they'd be?

**A:** They live here. I used to come and watch them a lot.

**B:** It's quiet.

**A:** They don't really belong here, you know, but here they are. They're coming back around in a little while. You wanna wait?

**B:** Yeah, sure.

### Scene 3: Adam's apartment

**B:** Enough with the presents, OK?

**A:** Well, that was kind of awful, wasn't it?

**B:** I mean, God, you just *stopped by* (5) to watch the kids. I do that for a living. Police *freak me out* (6) too. OK?

**A:** Do you wanna come in?

**B:** OK. So, you live alone?

**A:** Yes.

**B:** I mean, it's ... it's big for one person. For the city.

**A:** Well, my father lived here too.

**B:** Oh! Where is he now?

**A:** Queens.

**B:** Queens?

**A:** He died six weeks ago.

**B:** Oh, God. I'm so sorry.

**A:** My friend Harlan says Queens is where everybody goes to die, because they can't tell the difference.

**B:** That's awful.

**A:** Harlan said it was a joke.

**B:** Oh, I meant about your father. What about your mother?

**A:** She died when I was 8.

**B:** I'm so sorry. I had a really nice time last night in the park.

**A:** Were you excited?

**B:** What?

**A:** Sexually, when we were in the park.

**B:** Um ... Uh, no, not exactly.

**A:** Well, I ask because I was, and I wondered if you were too.

**B:** [Stammers] Thank you so much for the glass of water. I should be going now.

**A:** Because I said that thing about being sexually excited?

**B:** No! No, no. I just ... Well ... [Sighs] yeah.

**A:** Uh, sometimes it's hard for me to, um, I have this thing. It's called Asperger's syndrome. One thing about it is not knowing what people are thinking.

**B:** Like right now.

### Vocabulary

1. **G-man:** an agent for the FBI

2. **up in the air:** not decided

3. **ganef:** a thief, swindler, crook, or rascal

4. **forage:** to seek food

5. **stop by:** to make a brief visit on one's way elsewhere

6. **freak out:** to be frightened

(By Huang Daohen)